

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

That Eternal Boy



Photo: Karen O'Leary

Boy George, seen here enjoying a libation, copped the Outstanding Album award for his *Cheapness and Beauty* effort at the March 10 GLAAD Media Awards at LA's Century Plaza Hotel. The Boy was reportedly very chummy with former TV talk show host Arsenio Hall. For more on the awards, see **B.A.R.** LA correspondent Karen O'Leary's story on page 13.

A Bay Area Reporter Exclusive:

Gay SF Pseudo-Psychiatrist Wanted on 213 Fraud Counts

by Dennis Conkin

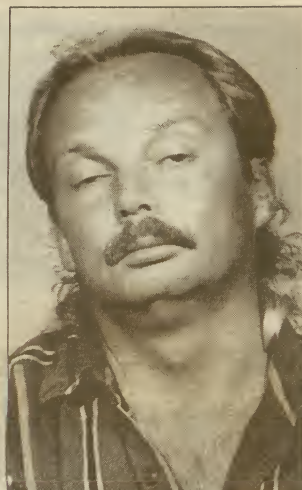
Authorities are looking for a San Francisco gay man who is accused of duping scores of poor and mentally troubled clients into believing he was a psychiatrist. According to District Attorney Terence Hallinan, Lonny Dean Lewis practiced medicine and prescribed drugs without a license – and stole Social Security checks from indigent clients – leading to a fugitive warrant that lists a total of 213 felony and misdemeanor counts.

"We'll get him," Hallinan said. "I made a campaign promise that we weren't just going to go after people who were judicial criminals. He was preying on a vulnerable group of people."

David Millstein, chief of the District Attorney's Special Prosecutions section, told the *Bay Area Reporter* the warrant was the result of a ten-month inter-agency investigation involving the District Attorney's office, the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, the Employment Development Department, and the California Department of Insurance.

"It's an awful example of predatory be-

Continued on page 14



Lonny Dean Lewis

New Anti-Gay Violence Statistics Released

United Press International

Violence against gay people dipped eight percent nationwide during 1995 – but the incidents that did occur were more violent, according to a report released Tuesday, March 12 by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs and the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.

The number of attacks fell to 2,212 from 2,401 in 1994, but there was a ten percent increase in the number of assaults and rapes.

New York led the nation in anti-lesbian and gay crime with 625 incidents, a drop of one percent from 632 in 1994. It was followed by

San Francisco with 324 in its much smaller population pool, Los Angeles with 256, and Minneapolis/St. Paul with 218 incidents.

The 105-page report was compiled from data collected by victim assistance programs in Boston; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit; El Paso, Texas; Los Angeles; Minneapolis/St. Paul; New York City; Phoenix; Portland, Oregon; and San Francisco.

Incidents increased 42 percent in El Paso, 22 percent in Phoenix, 21 percent in Columbus, and 15 percent in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

They fell in most of the other cities, by 56 percent in Portland, 53 percent in Chicago, 26 percent in Boston, 23 percent in Los An-

SF Violence Alert

The **B.A.R.** has learned a group of four young males has been seen attacking men in the Windmills section of Golden Gate Park, a well-known cruising area. The **B.A.R.** urges caution or complete avoidance of the area.

geles, and six percent in Detroit.

The rate of anti-gay/lesbian violence in San Francisco was unchanged.

More than 700 gays and lesbians were reported injured nationwide, 194 of them in New York. While violence against gays barely decreased in New York, the New York Police Department reported overall violent crime in that city had gone down 15 percent; anti-Semitic incidents, according to the Anti-Defamation League, were down 16 percent.

"While other forms of violent crime are tumbling down, anti-lesbian/gay crime is barely budging,

Continued on page 24

Eighth Annual AIDS Update Conference in SF Next Week

by Hakeem Oseni II

The Eighth Annual AIDS Update Conference will convene Tuesday, March 19 at the San Francisco Civic Center and run until Friday, March 22. The conference, "HIV and the Changing Health Care Environment," will focus on the ever-changing nature of HIV and AIDS care, and how the epidemic has altered all healthcare in America, plus the healthcare changes proposed by Congress.

Invited speakers include San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown; National Institutes of Health Director Anthony Fauci; members of the President's AIDS Advisory Council; the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, Patsy Fleming; the director of AIDS Programs at San Francisco General Hospital, Paul Volberding; and a host of other knowledgeable people. Conference Chair Mary Pittman is the president of the Hospital Research and Educational Trust, American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Nine plenary presentations are scheduled, as are six educational "tracks" on the topics Prevention and Education, Policy and Administration, Care and Services, Treatment and Health, Cultural Issues, and Youth and Adolescent issues. Over 90 workshop sessions and ten optional intensive workshops cover a wide variety of HIV-related issues.

The conference will also feature an AIDS in Arts display, an AIDS Theater Festival, an AIDS Film Festival, and a roundtable discussion program, as well as formal receptions and other social networking opportunities. ▼

For more information about registration and exhibits contact KREBS Convention Management Services at 555 De Haro Street, Suite 200, or call (415) 255-1297.

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SPEED!!!

**D-D-Does it kill? Are we
o-o-overreacting?**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Shriver To Come Back for Fundraiser Next Thursday

by Dennis Conkin

A reception to honor former San Francisco Health Commissioner and AIDS activist Mike Shriver, and to raise money for some AIDS organizations at the same time, will be held in the conference room of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Thursday, March 21.

Shriver, one-time executive director of Mobilization Against AIDS and a member of the American Foundation For AIDS Research board of directors, is now the Public Policy director of the National Association of People With AIDS in Washington, D.C.

The host committee for the event is headed by Living Well Project executive director Steve Lew, and includes Mayor Willie Brown, Jr.; Health Department Director Sandra Hernandez; and Operation Concern/18th Street Ser-

vices board member Niall Yoshizumi. Major local sponsors also include gay leader and philanthropist James C. Hormel and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Tickets to the event cost \$30, and will raise funds for the HIV Prevention Project/Prevention Point, the Living Well Project, which provides AIDS/HIV education and direct services for Asian and Pacific Islander Communities, and Mobilization Against AIDS, which produces the yearly International AIDS Candlelight Memorial.

The event will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, located at 10 United Plaza. Chandon champagne, non-alcoholic beverages, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. ▼

For reservations and more information, contact 575-3939, extension 345.



Mike Shriver

AIDS House Again Proposed in Berkeley

by Cynthia Laird

Another housing project for people with AIDS is being proposed in Berkeley, this time in the south part of the city, near People's Park.

Resources for Community Development, Inc. is teaming with Berkeley Oakland Support Services to rehabilitate an existing house near Dwight Way and Regent Street. Last week executive directors of both nonprofit agencies hosted a community meeting to discuss the proposal, which would provide housing for up to six very low income formerly homeless persons with HIV/AIDS.

About 20 people attended the meeting in Berkeley and listened as Jack Gardner, the new director of RCD, and boona cheena, director of BOSS, carefully explained this new housing proposal and talked about previous projects of both agencies.

Several of the residents did raise questions about the project, and Gardner did not provide specifics about the cost, although he did say it would be less expensive than last year's ill-fated Rose Street House proposal. The Berkeley City Council rejected that controversial plan, publicly citing the \$800,000 cost of demolishing and rebuilding on a Rose Street lot in

North Berkeley in their denial of funds for the project. AIDS and other housing activists believed the rejection was political.

The latest Regent Street plan calls for renovation of an existing home to provide six bedrooms and common kitchen and living areas. "Very low income" is defined as earning 50 percent or less of the area median income or \$19,400 for an individual in the county.

RCD and BOSS are applying for the \$325,000 in city funds already set aside by the council for permanent housing for people with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, according to an information sheet on the project, federal funds have already been secured.

'Some Expertise'

One of the concerns addressed at last week's community meeting dealt with the likelihood that potential residents for the project may have a history of drug use. cheena emphasized that BOSS has 12 years of experience dealing with both persons with a history of drug abuse and homeless persons.

"We're not coming to this issue without some expertise," cheena said. "We want to staff the house extremely well at first."

She added that staffing could decrease slightly after residents complete an initial period. However, she stressed, one of the resi-

dents will be an onsite manager. Additionally, applicants for the house will have to be "clean and sober, who have already stabilized their lives in homeless shelters or transitional housing." House rules will ensure proper operation of the house and sensitivity to neighborhood concerns.

Gardner said last week's meeting is one of the first steps in the process of securing the city funding. If all goes as RCD and BOSS plan, and funding is approved by the city, the Regent Street home could open by mid-1997. The property is currently zoned residential, Gardner said.

Gardner and cheena encouraged public input regarding the project, and both pledged accessibility to citizens who may have concerns. cheena pointed out that the house is near existing medical facilities and will not provide medical care. Residents must come into the program with medical services already in place, cheena said.

cheena also said an estimated 20 percent of the population in the Peoples Park area is infected with HIV/AIDS. "In any given week, I spend three to four hours there," she said. "In a way we're bringing services to where the need is. I've worked with people who are HIV-positive since 1980, and some of them are still alive." ▼

Court Date Set for Mondelli's Shrink/Lover/Attacker

by Dennis Conkin

Dean Alton Freeman, MD, a former San Francisco General Hospital psychiatrist, will appear for a felony preliminary hearing Thursday, March 28 in Department 10 of San Francisco Municipal Court. He faces attempted murder charges stemming from the brutal July 24, 1994 attack on his former patient and sexual partner Mario Mondelli with an ax.

Freeman, 34, a onetime staff member of the SFGH inpatient psychiatric unit, is charged with attempted murder, assault and battery, felony sexual abuse, prescribing drugs under false pretenses, administering stimulant drugs

to an addict, and other charges including possession of methamphetamine.

The preliminary hearing will determine whether there is enough evidence against Freeman to bind him over to Superior Court for trial in the matter.

The California Board of Medical Quality Assurance issued a restraining order last year that forbids Freeman from practicing medicine in the state until the disposition of the criminal charges against him, at which time he also faces further disciplinary action, including the loss of his medical license.

Freeman remains free on \$75,000 bail until the preliminary

hearing.

Mondelli, who sustained permanent injuries in the attack that nearly killed him, has also filed civil suit against Freeman, the City and County of San Francisco, and the Regents of the University of California in connection with the incident.

Although Mondelli is unable to comment on the charges on the advice of attorney, he earlier told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Freeman attacked him while giving him a massage.

"He had been taking a lot of speed. He was paranoid that I was going to turn him in," he said at the time. "He saw me as an insignificant person." ▼

Former Starlight Owner To Pay Restitution

by Mary Ann Swissler

Albert Jenkins, the gay former owner of Starlight Moving & Storage in San Francisco, has been sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay restitution to former Starlight customers whose belongings have disappeared from the facility.

Public Utilities Commission investigator Curtis Jung told the B.A.R. that Jenkins pleaded no contest in January to two counts for advertising Starlight without a permit and operating it without a license.

Jung said that Jenkins is technically allowed to apply for a license when his probation period is over, but, he added, "If we found out about it," his office would fight its approval.

San Francisco resident Ed Smith, a former Starlight customer, says after his experiences with Starlight he will never again rent space for his valuable belongings. And after nearly two years of being on the short end of the stick with his missing items and a reluctant judicial system, and after hearing from a probation officer overseeing the Jenkins case, Smith told the B.A.R. he's more likely to find a four-leaf clover than a check in the mail to cover his lost items.

Shortly after the agreement, Smith said he was told by a parole officer if Jenkins filed bankruptcy, neither he nor other victims would see a dime.

Moreover, Smith said, he did not even know about the trial date

in which Jenkins pleaded no contest.

"They purposely did not tell me so I couldn't show up," he said.

"When I said I wanted him to do jail time they said he'll get restitution, and said they're real strict about that stuff. But now I don't think any of that's going to happen. They're just a real joke in my opinion," he said.

In an interview with the B.A.R., Jenkins would not comment on the amount of restitution agreed to, or anything about his financial solvency.

Jenkins says that he is innocent, and plans on filing a lawsuit of his own against the people he said are actually responsible for the thefts. ▼

Pride & Patriotism



The SF Pride Committee recently selected the logo for the 1996 parade that best represented this year's theme of "Equality and Justice for All." Alan Martinez's winning design features an eagle holding the USA shield in front of several flags, including the rainbow flag. A ribbon with the legend "SF Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration" is a crowning touch.

Will SFSU Budget Cuts Destroy Lesbian Classes?

by Mary Ann Swissler

Seemingly small budget cuts proposed for the Women Studies Department at San Francisco State University (SFSU) could devastate undergraduate and graduate courses about lesbians, according to lecturers interviewed by the Bay Area Reporter.

SFSU Women Studies Department lecturers Ruth Mahaney and Merle Woo, both longtime lesbian activists in the Bay Area, told the B.A.R. that if proposed cuts — estimated at around \$20,000 a semester — are approved, as many as three of the department's six lecturers would be let go. Four classes are slated to get dropped, all of which are taught by lecturers.

In the process, Mahaney said, it would leave the department — in what is now the only four-year university in San Francisco with a Women Studies Department — without a strong lesbian focus.

The department's national reputation has rested in part on its emphasis on women of color, lesbians, and global issues. Three out of the six lecturers are lesbians, and they are the only women doing lesbian-related scholarship on the Women Studies faculty, said Mahaney. The State University catalog now lists three classes with "lesbian" in the title: Woo teaches the graduate class International Perspective on Lesbianism, and the undergraduate class Lesbian Literature; and Mahaney teaches the undergraduate Lesbian Lives and Thought.

Mahaney, who told the B.A.R. other courses also include lesbian

themes within the coursework itself, has taught Women Studies since the late 1970s, starting at Sonoma State University. She is also co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California.

Woo is active with the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women, is a breast cancer activist, and has published non-fiction articles, fiction, and poetry in lesbian, women of color, and Asian-American periodicals.

The presence of lecturers in the department lends a greater degree of diversity to the curriculum, said Mahaney. What has given SF State's program a national profile, she said, is its focus on women of color, women's conditions internationally, and lesbians.

She added that although budget cuts may result in a purging of lecturers like herself and Woo, she doesn't believe that has been an overriding intent of the university.

"I think this is a common phenomenon," she said. "There isn't enough money, and the people on the lower end of the totem pole are activists," partly because of pressure to do academic research among higher-end people.

Woo added, "I don't think (other programs) are multi-issue at all, and I think they tend to become much more academic.... I think San Francisco State's Women Studies department is different from other universities in that we emphasize the intersection of race, sex, sexuality and class, and also that we do emphasize the necessity for activism."

SFSU Women Studies Depart-

ment Acting Chair Susan Chimenoff could not be reached for comment by presstime. ▼

Letters can be sent to SFSU President Robert A. Corrigan at 1600 Holloway Avenue, Admin. 561, San Francisco CA 94132.

LEGAL QUESTION?



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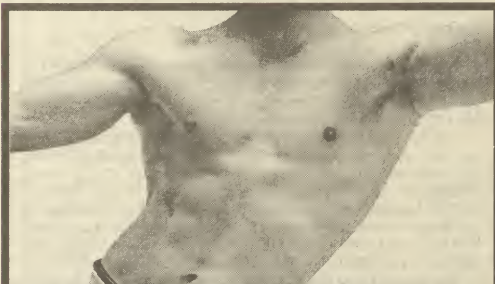


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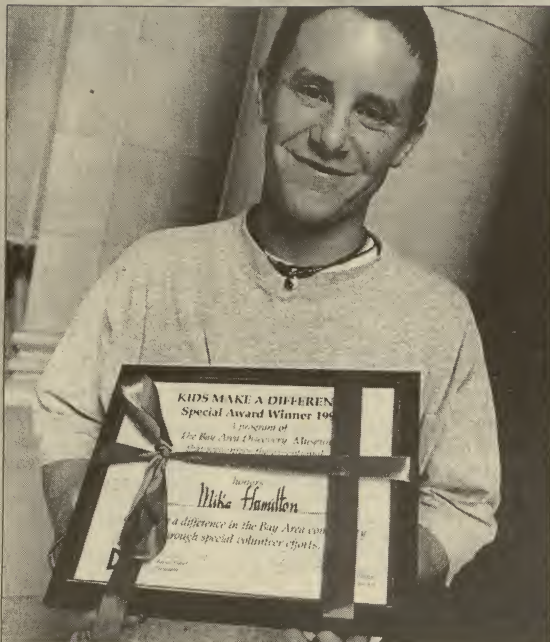


Photo: Rick Gerhart

Kudos to the Kid

Mike Hamilton, 17, proudly shows off his Kids Make a Difference award from the Bay Area Discovery Museum. Mike was one of four Bay Area young people so honored on March 11 by the museum. He is the first and only teenage volunteer at the Maitri Hospice, a residential program for men with AIDS, and has also done reforestation work in Ecuador.

Alameda Councilman Surprises Gay Rights Group

by Cynthia Laird

Members of Out on the Island, Alameda's gay rights group, say

they're surprised at last week's discussion of proclamations by the city council, at which some of the council members discussed the need for a "workshop" to discuss "guidelines" for proclamations.

This appears to be the most recent development of the continuing saga concerning a gay pride proclamation in the East Bay city.

Christine Allen, a member of Out on the Island's executive board, told the B.A.R. the group now "has no idea" how Councilman Al De Witt stands on the issue, after he agreed with fellow Councilman Charles Mannix that the city needs to have a workshop regarding proclamation procedures.

Just last month De Witt publicly stated at another council meeting that he had changed his position on sexual orientation. Now, De Witt is insisting the workshop be held before June, which has raised concerns of Out on the Island members.

"We were completely flabbergasted," Allen said of last week's meeting. "We don't know what it means." She added that members of the group have been trying to get in touch with De Witt.

According to Allen, Alameda

Mayor Ralph Appezatto has maintained for some time that he supports issuing a proclamation to Out on the Island this year.

"We do intend to ask for one [a proclamation] to be issued at a city council meeting," Allen said in an interview. She noted that Appezatto told the council last week that he has been issuing proclamations to various groups at meetings of those groups, rather than in the council chambers.

To Allen and other members of the Alameda gay and lesbian community, receiving a proclamation at a meeting is important, especially since the council denied one last year.

"We're the only group in [city] history ever to be turned down for a proclamation, and I think it's crucial it be issued at a city council meeting," Allen said.

Allen also emphasized that the recent discussions of proclamations are not being initiated by Out on the Island.

"It's not the gay and lesbian citizens who are heating this issue up again. It's the right wing and the council," she observed.

"I think they're creating confrontation, and I think that's unfortunate." ▼

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PWAs' Satisfaction To Be Discussed Next Thursday

by Dennis Conkin

The Mayor's HIV Planning Council and the People With AIDS Coalition will hold a Thursday, March 28 public hearing on developing ways to measure how satisfied people with HIV and AIDS are with city-funded HIV services they receive.

The hearing is part of the council's ongoing efforts to develop and support client-centered systems of care that include client involvement in planning, delivery, and evaluation of HIV services, according to AIDS office staffer Judith Klain.

"The hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide input in the design of a standardized client satisfaction survey. The survey will assist the CARE Council in evaluating and prioritizing current services for people with AIDS/HIV," Klain said in a press release.

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council is the oversight body for federal Ryan White CARE Act funds.

The hearing will be held from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Department of Public Health, located in room 300 of 101 Grove Street. Written testimony will be accepted until April 5.

For more information contact Klain at (415) 554-9115. ▼

KEVIN ▼ McCARTHY

SAN FRANCISCO'S CHOICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Four months ago, Pete Wilson appointed a resident of Marin County to represent you on the San Francisco Superior Court. On March 26, we can replace Wilson's choice with a real San Franciscan, Kevin McCarthy.

In the thirteen years since George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson have been governors of this State, not one openly Lesbian or Gay man has been appointed to the bench on any level, anywhere in California. Our community has been denied access to the judiciary due to bigotry. Of the 1,554 judges in California, only four are openly Lesbian or Gay.

Currently, twenty of the twenty-nine judges on the San Francisco Superior Court have been appointed by George Deukmejian or Pete Wilson. On Tuesday, March 26, we will finally have the opportunity to decide for ourselves who should represent us on the Superior Court.

Kevin McCarthy is an openly Gay man, an experienced trial attorney, and adjunct law professor. Whether in the courtroom or in the classroom, he has spent his entire career confronting the real problems which judges are called upon to resolve.

WE MUST VOTE IN THIS ELECTION. For the first time ever, California's primary election is being held in March instead of June. Observers are predicting a low voter turnout of Democrats, and a high voter turnout of Republicans. Our community must vote in large numbers, or we will lose the opportunity to replace Pete Wilson's appointee with a highly qualified member of our own community.

The choice between Kevin McCarthy and his opponent Doug Moore is clear. Compare the facts below, and decide for yourself.

COMPARE THE TWO CANDIDATES

KEVIN McCARTHY

Endorsed by the San Francisco Democratic Party

A senior public defender with over seventy jury trials

Has lectured to attorneys on such topics as "Defending Battered Women"

An adjunct law professor at Hastings who teaches law students how to try cases

Board of Directors, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association

San Francisco homeowner with a record of community involvement including serving on the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation and volunteer attorney with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Supported by openly Lesbian and Gay judges Donna Hitchens and Herb Donaldson, and by Presiding Justice Tony Kline, former Supreme Court Justice Joseph Grodin, and Judge Ellen Chaitin

DOUG MOORE

Endorsed by the San Francisco Republican Party

An insurance defense attorney appointed to the bench by Pete Wilson just four months ago

Has lectured to attorneys on such topics as "Policy Avoidance in Civil Rights Litigation"

Rear admiral in the Naval Reserve

Board of Directors, Insurance Defense Research Institute

Marin County homeowner and resident for the last twenty years. He registered to vote in San Francisco four months ago, the day he was sworn into office

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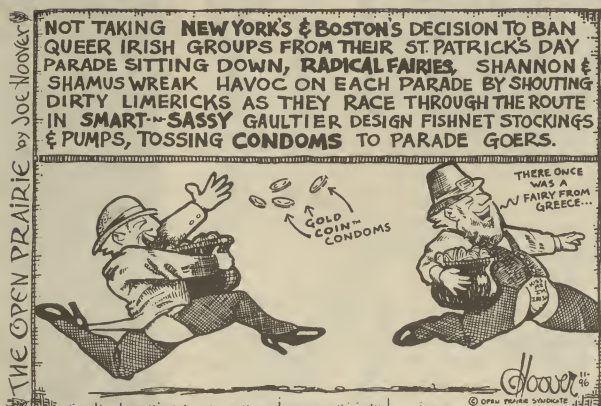
OPEN FORUM

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JOE HOOVER



EDITORIAL

Dog Days Ahead

The Ides of March are not auspicious, it would seem, for the presidential campaigns of Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes. By the early morning hours of March 14, Bob "Laugh, Clown, Laugh" Dole had sewn up enough delegates to clinch clinching the GOP nomination. He didn't technically get to the number of delegates he needs, but he built his momentum to the point where Buchanan and Forbes are out of real contention.

Which may be good, but it's not great.

Forbes proved his lack of mettle after Super Tuesday by saying that unless voters give him the gift (or God gives him the miracle) of a primary win next week, he plans to move on, presumably to some new dilettantish pursuit. That puts him in the same league as H. Ross Perot and Oral Roberts, and since nobody is going to want to waste their vote on someone likely to crap out early, he's destined for the scrap heap.

Buchanan, on the other hand, has always been a scrap heap kind of animal. After Super Tuesday he dug in his claws and reiterated his intent to dog Dole all the way to the convention. That will provide a loud and colorful spectacle, but it could have grave consequences for the country.

The problem is that while they do their "good GOP, bad GOP" routine all the way to the San Diego convention, Dole could come off looking positively warm and fuzzy by comparison with Buchanan's pit bull routine. Next to Buchanan, he looks reasonable. Of course, Nixon looks reasonable next to Buchanan. Even dead. Especially dead.

But the truth is that although Dole is a different breed than Buchanan, he's still a hound, he's still rabid, and he still shouldn't be unleashed around children or fragile possessions — like your civil rights or healthcare or democracy as we know it, for example.

Another problem with this presidential race is that it will probably, like the ones in the past, be a catalyst for anti-gay violence. In the same way Super Bowl Sunday is said to increase the danger of domestic violence to American wives, White House races usually increase bigoted attacks on our community.

The causes and effects are simple to figure out: verbal gay bashing is obviously valued by the power elite, or else the entire field of Republican contenders wouldn't be so eager to take part in it; the message goes out to our increasingly armed teenage population that gay people are acceptable targets for abuse; and soon carloads of rednecks are out drunkenly looking for victims in a desperate attempt to increase their own self-worth; and then no one is safe.

No one. Longtime residents of San Francisco will recall the heterosexual tourist who was knifed to death on these streets, by a homophobe who "made a mistake," over a decade ago. The story was distributed by wire services that made much of how wronged the victim was — being straight and all, you understand — but they neglected to point out the true frequency with which heterosexuals are victims of anti-gay violence. (For instance, we also know of a case in which two women walking hand-in-hand were hospitalized by a car full of anti-lesbian thugs in Greenwich Village. The women were sisters, straight, and holding onto each other for protection, since one of them was visiting New York for the first time that day.)

We are definitely not saying anti-gay violence is worse when it's perpetrated on heterosexuals. We are saying that if the national press, in reporting about the new anti-gay violence study, pointed out that everyone is a potential victim of the huge problem, maybe our fellow citizens would do something about it. If we can't appeal to their sense of fairness, maybe we should join in the parade of those pandering to their fear: the Golden Rule may be taking a beating in our society these days, but Self-Protection is more popular than ever.

Finally, to end on a much happier note, our best wishes will be with Rudy Galindo in Canada this week. Galindo, the openly gay skater from San Jose who won — no, earned — the American championship January 20, is competing for the world title in Edmonton, Alberta starting this Sunday, March 17.

His grace and style even get us through Dole and Buchanan. Thanks, Rudy. ▼

GUEST OPINION

Avoiding Quackery in Alternative AIDS Therapies

by Douglas MacKay
British Columbia People
With AIDS Society

All of us have heard about alternative therapies. The problem tends to be figuring out if a particular therapy is of any actual benefit. Here are a few guidelines that can help you determine what is valid and what is fraud.

1. Look for credible, published studies.

Contrary to popular belief (or what a promoter might have you believe), studies of alternative therapies do get published in the major medical journals. Good science is good science; if the study is credible, it gets published. Several therapies that have been the subject of published studies include NAC, hypericin, coenzyme Q-10, and bitter melon. Many studies are on therapies tested in vitro, meaning the compound was tested in a lab setting rather than in people. If the study shows an effect against HIV in vitro, evidence would suggest a possible beneficial effect in humans. Do not accept a promoter's statement that studies have been published; demand copies of all of the studies. Publication of a study doesn't mean that it actually worked; there have been phase I and II studies published about ozone that showed no benefit to humans.

2. Beware the testimonial.

Many promoters will produce reams of testimonials that claim their product works. You have no way of knowing whether these people actually exist, or whether the "treatment" showed any lasting effect. Remember that the person selling a treatment is not necessarily a reliable source of information.

3. What is it, really?

Often a promoter of a treatment will state that the compound is "secret." The usual claim is that if the ingredients are revealed, the "medical industry" will steal it. Some "secret" compounds are no more than camphor and water. If you don't know what it is, why on earth would you want to put it in your body?

4. Demand proof of "cures."

A testimonial is not proof. If a testimonial claims that a person has gone from HIV-positive to HIV-negative, you should demand copies of the person's Elisa and Western blot tests done prior to and after the person did the treatment. If you get the results, take them to your physician for verification. The test results should include the date of the test, a file number, and the name and address of the lab that did the testing.

5. The "all-purpose" cure.

If a promoter claims that a treatment cures both AIDS and something else (usually cancer), you can pretty much bet that the treatment is a fake. AIDS is a unique disease. To expect it to react to a treatment that claims to cure "coughs, colds, sore throats, and pimples on the winkle" (as my mother would say) is very unrealistic.

6. Who is this person, anyway?

Find out as much as you can about the promoter of a treatment. Does he/she have a degree? What is it and where did it come from? Ask for a copy of the promoter's resume. Try to talk to the promoter directly. Ask questions about his/her background and about the treatment being promoted. Take note if the promoter dodges your questions.

7. Read and understand the literature.

There are certain warning signs to be looked for in treatment literature. These include: a) unproved claims of "cures" or beneficial effects; b) incomplete or selected laboratory data; c) portrayals of the promoter or treatment "discoverer" as an unselfish researcher whose work is being actively ignored/suppressed by the "medical establishment." If you are uncertain about the contents of a piece of treatment literature, discuss it with your physician or a local AIDS treatment group.

8. Knowledge is power.

You are the person responsible for the treatments you take, so you have a responsibility to know as much as you can about any treatment. Where there is illness, there is snake oil, and by being an informed, cautious customer, you can avoid being ripped off. ▼

LETTERS

Pat-terms of fascism

Patrick Buchanan has a long history of being anti-union and against the minimum wage, as well as being anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant and racist. His fascist credentials are long and well-established since he was a member of the Nixon and Reagan administrations and has a program on CNN where he propagates his fascist views. His pretense at opposing NAFTA is just that. Remember, Nazi means National Socialist. The Nazis tried to steal the thunder of the Left, which was very strong in Germany before Hitler took power. Anyone who votes for Patrick Buchanan is not just making a protest vote; they are endorsing fascism.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

CytoDyning and whining

I was fascinated by the large "Lies from New York" advertisement in the February 22 *Bay Area Reporter*. The ad was placed by Los Angeles-based CytoDyng of New Mexico, a tiny company with no official address, and denounced *Treatment Issues*, the AIDS treatments monthly I edit for Gay Men's Health Crisis. Over two months ago, we published a minor article critiquing CytoDyng's only product, the experimental AIDS therapy Cytolin. It is especially ironic that CytoDyng chose to place its "Lies from New York" in the *B.A.R.*, the newspaper for which I was the regular AIDS writer from 1990 to 1992. I cherish the support I received from the paper and its readers before moving on, eventually to New York.

The *Treatment Issues* report reviewed the possible theoretical bases for Cytolin's action and noted a few of the therapy's potential dangers. It reached the conservative conclusion that people with HIV should await data from rigorously conducted clinical trials before using the product in a less controlled or underground environment. This is a conclusion that the president of CytoDyng says he agrees with.

I personally have checked with four immunologists who conduct research in areas related to Cytolin. All disputed the theory behind Cytolin.

They all also raised the same questions concerning Cytolin use. The problems that could arise relate to further suppressing critical aspects of the immune system, sparking allergic reactions, and triggering the body's production of antibodies to block Cytolin. The selected data CytoDyng has furnished *Treatment Issues* show that Cytolin has at best a slight anti-HIV effect without raising CD4 (helper-T) cell counts. Nor does it alter the rate of AIDS-related disease to any obvious extent. In addition, CytoDyng admits to seven life-threatening allergic ("anaphylactoid") reactions among 188 patients. I stand by our article, which I continue to consider very cautious in its criticism of Cytolin.

CytoDyng officials have been harassing myself, my superiors at GMHC and GMHC board members with repeated, abusive phone calls and faxes ever since the Cytolin article appeared. Now we have public advertisements. These amateurish attempts to intimidate us only heighten my doubts about Cytolin.

The company has informed me that it is worried that our article will discourage investors. Well, excuse me. It is *Treatment Issues'* job to be passionately and objectively report on AIDS news for our 25,000 readers, not fill company coffers. We will continue to carry out this mission despite CytoDyng's actions.

David Gilden
Editor, *Treatment Issues*
New York, NY

More on Cytolin

I would like to advise the community that my article on Cytolin was in no way an endorsement of this therapy. The article was intended to clarify the current scientific standing of this drug which some in the community are using. ACT UP/Golden Gate neither endorses nor promotes any treatments but rather access to treatment and informed consent between patient and physician when selecting therapy. The manufacturer of Cytolin, CytoDyng, unfortunately chose to target Gay Men's Health Crisis with a negative advertisement in the *Bay Area Reporter* in the same issue in which my article appeared. The company was unhappy with an article in GMHC's *Treatment Issues* publication. Although I advised Tom Bianchi in my interview with him for my article that this was a bad approach to dealing with the situation, the company moved forward with the campaign. CytoDyng's Dr. Allen indicates no one should be trying to get Cytolin right now due to the availability of other therapies and because it is extremely early in investigation. The FDA agrees, Dr. Ilana Fogelman, M.D., M.P.H. of the Division of Clinical Trial Design & Analysis/CBER advises no one should use Cytolin except in a proposed clinical trial currently under development. Any other use would be considered dangerous as well as illegal.

Additionally I would like to say I have nothing but the utmost respect for GMHC. I have worked with them on many projects and will continue to do so. I plan a more in-depth critical analysis of Cytolin in an upcoming ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool article with the cooperation of Dr. Fogelman and CytoDyng and input from independent researchers and doctors.

Bill Thorne
ACT UP/Golden Gate

Bad-mouthing for a good cause

Hooray for Mr. Marcus and Daddy Irwin! In the Feb. 29th *B.A.R.* both Mr. Marcus and Daddy Irwin address a crucial issue. Let's respect each other, we all live on the same campus. If we can raise a little money, have some fun and promote safe sex, we are leading productive lives.

In a spirit of fun and to raise money I'd like to invite all my friends (just this once) to say vile, nasty things at Leather Daddy Cornelius's roast to mark my 30th anniversary in the SF leather community Sunday, March 17 at 6 p.m. All money collected goes to AEF. \$25 per person for a St. Patrick's Day-inspired dinner and champagne. If you haven't got anything nice to say, come sit by me. Reservations, 863-4177. Hope to see you there.

Peter Fiske
Vice Chairman
15 Association/SF

More than just a sex object

As an "extremely overweight gay man," I would like to think some of my admirers in and out of Girth & Mirth are more than one dimensional "erotic admirers" of extremely overweight gay men. ["Gay Landlord's Attempted Eviction..."] *B.A.R.*, 2/22.] Some big men and their admirers, including Mr. DiGenova, have contributed to the fight against oppression in all its forms, including sizism, as evidenced in Conkin's hit piece.

First of all, Girth & Mirth/SF has nothing to do with DiGenova's financial investments. Girth & Mirth/SF is concerned about health issues, safe sex, and many other issues that affect our lives, just like most groups in the gay community. We all have shared in the devastation from this holocaust. Conkin's rhetoric makes the big men's movement sound like a freak side show with sex-crazed admirers, when in fact Girth & Mirth/SF is more inclusive and diverse, i.e., multi-generational, multi-racial, multi-dimensional than many other gay organizations that come to mind.

Sex is but one choice among many other interactions in balanced lives and organizations. Increasingly, leathermen, bears, and big men are finding they have more in common; that it's not necessary to look 20 and be a gym bunny to socialize and have fun.

It's a big, wide world out there, full of gay men in an assortment of shapes and sizes who are tired of condescending queens who view all human value in terms of body parts and body weight. Those of us fortunate enough to grow older may find that even though our waist expands, there are other attributes to the human condition more attractive and, yes, even more significant in the long run!

It is particularly remarkable that Conkin, once a porker as well as a journalist himself, would not see the value of hearing both sides of the story before submitting his poorly researched piece. I say poorly researched because Conkin did not bother to check with DiGenova. DiGenova is a man who has spent twenty years of his life building a gay movement to support gay big men. He at least deserved to be contacted to state his side of it. Conkin was not that impartial or thorough in his research before defaming the character of Mr. DiGenova — and that is not responsible journalism.

Thom Bean
Past President, Girth & Mirth/SF

[The editor responds: Porker?!

Dennis Conkin responds: Once a porker?!

All joking aside, DiGenova's attorney was contacted — and quoted in the story — because he could comment on the case; DiGenova could not. For Bean, someone who purports to be some sort of journalist himself, not to know that basic principle of the craft is strange. If he does know better, his letter is a hit piece; if he doesn't, it's poorly researched. In either case, it is a smokescreen, and he and his friends know it.]

Sapphisticated lady

As anyone who knows anything about me can attest, I've never been one to pay a lot of attention to mainstream opinion or political correctness, even (or especially) on those rare occasions when the two coincide. I seldom bother to read the lesbian section of the paper, and any magazine which is devoted to a "lesbian and gay" audience loses my interest pretty rapidly. Yeah, I like some lesbians. So what? I like some basketball players, too, but that doesn't mean I like to read their magazines. And I generally find that gay men and lesbians share about as many interests as, say, rock gardeners and basketball players.

It has come as a shocking surprise, therefore, over the past couple of months, to encounter a lesbian writer (and she might object to this designation; if so, I apologize) who writes from a lesbian perspective, yet makes her writing applicable and appealing to just about anyone. In a few short months, her column has become my favorite part of the *B.A.R.*, even ahead of the obituaries.

Ms. Elliott will eventually be snapped up by *The New Republic* or some other discerning literary publication, but until then, please keep her around. She's a gem.

Scott O'Hara
San Francisco

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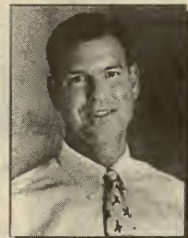
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LETTERS

Trial and error?

I wish to announce that the Hellerstein Trials and Studies discriminates. I met with Andrew Pelfini and Becky Hoh for the 352 study. It had to do with nutrition. They would either put you on a regular diet, or let you try a formula. It was to help people with HIV or AIDS who had lost weight due to diarrhea. The study paid \$300 after completion, so that sounded good to me.

Both Mr. Pelfini and Ms. Hoh led me to believe I would be eligible for the study. They never mentioned to me what would disqualify me. A few days later, after wasting time traveling from Walnut Creek, digging into my personal background, and a bloodtest, Mr. Pelfini told me I couldn't do the study. I asked why. The group decided that I had anemia. Ms. Hoh told me it was a very mild case, but still anemia. I don't think so. I personally feel it was because they just didn't like the way I looked. I had planned on the \$300 for moving to a new apartment in May. Anyone who decides on getting into a study or trial, beware! They pick and choose the people who they want. It isn't fair! Isn't it funny, they will be sending me a \$25 check for my participation. What participation? I almost told them they could keep it.

Scott Sproat
Walnut Creek, CA

Reactionary position

The morning of 2/26/96, KTVU presented a gay Republican (oxymoron?) who supports Buchanan's candidacy for his party's presidential nomination. This person tells us that we should return to our closets. He attacks the Board of Supervisors for its support of LYRIC and its position against funding support of the Boy Scouts.

Who is this person? His position is reactionary, even sophomoric. He deprecates the efforts of all of us who have struggled, been assaulted, even died (remember Harvey Milk?) to gain some semblance of parity within our society. His arrogance is blatantly obvious; his disdain of his own community is appalling.

Is there not enough divisiveness within the gay/lesbian community that we should endure such insult? We must increase our efforts to oppose anyone of this ilk, lest someone like Buchanan, who purports that we deserve AIDS, actually gain the Presidency.

Perhaps the Puritans had the right idea when they relegated such people who would assault the fiber of the community to wearing the Scarlet Letter, or to the stock.

Robert Humphries
San Francisco

More on Community Center(s)

We are writing to correct recent suggestions that our lesbian and gay supervisors and the mayor are not providing leadership in the effort to obtain community and cultural centers. Actually, we are much closer to achieving these centers than at any point in the past ten years due to the support of our elected officials.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano has worked diligently behind the scenes to help both the Lesbian/Gay and Native American Cultural Centers, meeting with representatives of our communities, working with City Administrator Bill Lee and other supervisors to explore funding, discussing locations with us, and directing that a task force be formed on the subject. The task force will begin meeting in the near future.

Likewise Supervisor Migden was the moving force behind the Community Center proposal on Market Street that is now under debate. When Supervisor Leal recently named her top community priorities, a center was at the top of her list. And last Thursday night Mayor Brown eloquently articulated his support for the Lesbian/Gay and Native American Cultural centers before an audience of several hundreds at the Collingwood Recreation Center.

In our communities, many issues need to be debated and resolved before we commit to a concept. Should the LGBT community center and cultural center be combined? Should these centers be located in the Castro, or somewhere else? How inclusive are the groups planning the centers? How will the centers be financed? However, what does not need to be debated is whether our gay and lesbian supervisors and the new mayor are providing leadership on these questions.

Like many, we are unhappy that it has taken so long for the city to replace the Lesbian and Gay Center that was demolished to make way for the Symphony and Ballet's parking lot, and the Native American center that was lost about the same time. Despite San Francisco's diversity, our share of cultural funding has lagged behind support for elitist cultural institutions. Cultural equity has turned out to be a much more difficult goal to achieve than banning discrimination in employment, housing, and public facilities.

Therefore, we need to be very honest, persuasive, organized, and honorable towards our friends in City Hall. Please do not hesitate to let the Mayor and all City Supervisors, not just our own, know how you feel on these issues.

Jeff Jones, Lesbian and Gay
Cultural Center Project; Andrew Lisac,
Native American Cultural Center Project

Bear season

This is in response to John Newmeyer's *dumb* letter to the editor ("Chip 'n' Dale..." 2/29).

John, did someone just kick over a rock and out you came? Wasn't it just "International Chimpunk Something" for the last 50 years? Now you can see the bears among the skinny trees!

Frisch
San Francisco

Bare bear videos?

I want to applaud the committee who put together a great Bear Rendezvous weekend! Fun was had by all, and I sincerely enjoyed seeing all these beautiful men who sported facial as well as body hair. What a turn-on!

Which brings me to my next question. Since there are in fact more men who have facial as well as body hair and a large percentage of men who are turned on by this, why does the porn industry consistently use "pamper babies" and lead us to believe that the audience is just not there? Come on, Falcon Studios (and all you others), why not create another video line along with Jock and Mustang? You could simply call it, *Bear*. Hmmm... How original!

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

Enlightening facts

While Mr. Curtis Ponzi (*B.A.R.*, 2/8) bemoans "negativity," "personal attacks" and "undisclosed agendas" in the *B.A.R.*, he then proceeds to deliver a lengthy epistle consisting of negativity, his own agenda, and a personal attack against me. Playing the role of the victim, Attorney Curtis Ponzi (ex-member, Project Inform Board of Directors) engages in a scatological, legalese sermon about the "facts" that he believes support the idea that AZT and ddI reduce viral load in the lymph nodes. Ponzi cites a study of 6 patients to affirm his position yet, like Project Inform's Martin Delaney, pretends that he does not "promote the use of nucleoside analogs."

Forget the lymph nodes - let's examine a more recent study a little closer to home - at Davies Medical Center. In this study by the San Francisco Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology, 32 HIV+ patients were studied for viral replication after receiving the flu shot (*Journal of Experimental Medicine*, 1995, Dec 182:1727-1737). The study found that the flu shot evoked "readily demonstrable but transient increases in plasma HIV-1 RNA levels, indicative of activation of viral replication." From page 1730: "The majority of HIV-infected participants were receiving antiretroviral therapy (with the nucleoside analogues zidovudine, zalcitabine, didanosine, or stavudine monotherapy or various combinations thereof) [emphasis added] before and during the study period." From page 1732: "Patients on antiretroviral therapy were not noticeably different [emphasis added] from those not in therapy with regard to increases in plasma viremia." From page 1734: "Antiretroviral therapy initiated at various times before influenza vaccination did not prevent increases in plasma viremia." Finally, in *Science* (Vol. 271, 2/9/96, p. 755), NIAID's Anthony Fauci, cautioning against the tidal wave of enthusiasm for the protease inhibitors, says "those of us who haven't lost our long-term memories remembered what happened with AZT." We will certainly never hear about "what happened with AZT" from Ponzi, Delaney, Project Inform, or any of the other Eveready Bunnies-of-Death.

Finally, while Ponzi praises Martin Delaney and his local branch office of Glaxo/Burroughs Wellcome (Project Inform), he clearly is not acquainted with the embarrassing, yet enlightening facts found in the recent book *The Gravest Show on Earth*, by reporter Elinor Burkitt.

W. Fred Shaw
San Diego, CA

[But we're sure your personal recommendation will cause the book, like DNCB, to fly off the shelves and become an indispensable part of every PWA's life.]

Giant compassion

Regarding the letter from Mr. Jorasch as to why professional baseball teams don't allow gay athletes to come out: it's ludicrous. Isn't coming out an individual decision, not a team one? It will be wonderful if sports figures can come out. But if they don't, who cares?

Can Mr. Jorasch name any other professional baseball team that has devoted one day for AIDS funding? He should be thankful (although I doubt he's a sports fan) to have the San Francisco Giants organization display compassion in caring about AIDS awareness. Homophobic?

Bottom line: a new tax-free baseball stadium is revenue for our city. Traffic? Gridlock? Weekday night games will be implemented. Jobs will be created. Hotels and restaurants will have more customers. Look at what Wrigley Fields or Camden Yards have done to those cities' economies. If you love baseball and desire to keep the Giants in San Francisco, vote Yes on B.

Art Alcantar
San Francisco

WAYNE FRIDAY



Photo: Rick Gerhart

Hood Ornament

Even the sidewalks of the Castro couldn't contain Patty Mae as she commandeered the nearest car for the opening of Re-juice-a-nation, a new juice, smoothie and tonic bar on Castro Street. Opening weekend sales were split with ACT UP/Golden Gate for the scholarship fund for the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver; \$5,000 was raised.

The Forgotten Man

With Bob Dole having the GOP presidential nomination all but locked up, Pat Buchanan ready to spew his venom all the way to San Diego, and Steve Forbes spending money like a drunken sailor, what is the forgotten man — Ross Perot — of Campaign '96 up to? Well, while admitting that Dole is the "inevitable candidate" of the GOP, the mischievous Perot was telling reporters this week that with his Reform Party on the ballot in most states this November, "the fun is just beginning."

This unpredictable maverick who has sought to carve a power-broker role for himself in American politics continues to be cagey about whether he's in for another run at the White House. However, many of those close to the Texas billionaire are certain he will once again be his Reform Party's candidate against Dole and Bill Clinton.

"He has simply invested too much of his time and money not to eventually run himself," says one San Francisco former Republican who knows Perot well. Perot spent \$62 million of his estimated \$4 billion fortune four years ago, and is well on his way to matching that this year. His 1992 effort earned him 19 percent of the popular vote, and he claims that clearly established him as the voice of protest and leader of the increasingly important swing vote.

When Perot was asked last week if he would support a Dole candidacy against President Clinton, he replied quickly that "we are creating our own political party." Though the Texan with the big ears says he has no interest "in helping re-elect Bill Clinton," Republicans know too well that another run by the man with the funny voice and paranoid fantasies would help do just that.

In short, after Bob Dole gets rid of the pesky Messieurs Buchanan and Forbes, he still has to deal with Ross Perot and his band of political spoilers. Could Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot possibly get together in some fashion to really muddy up the senate majority leader's chances? The Republicans are worried, and Clinton and the Democrats are smiling, albeit cautiously.

Just rewards

Governor Pete Wilson has rewarded more than two dozen former state employees who resigned to join his ill-fated run for the presidency with new, higher-paying state jobs. Exercising his power of patronage, Wilson has appointed former campaign work-

ers to jobs totaling a cost to taxpayers of more than \$1.3 million. But what the hell, isn't this what politics (and political loyalty) is all about?

Incidentally, it will be the governor, not Dan Lungren, former Governor George Deukmejian, or anyone else who will be leading California's powerful block of 165 delegates to the San Diego convention in August.

Commentary

The guessing game continues at City Hall as to who Mayor Willie Brown will appoint to Assemblyperson-to-be Carole Migden's supe seat. The names heard most often are Mark Leno, Police Commissioner Pat Norman, and College Board member Leslie Katz.

Word comes from D.C. that Ralph Payne, a legislative assistant to Senator Dianne Feinstein, has been named director of development and marketing for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Look for Prop. 198 (the "open primary" plan) to win March 26 despite both the Democratic and Republican parties being formally against it.

The primary fight for retiring Assemblywoman Jackie Speier's 19th District seat (San Mateo/SF) is heating up. Two-time Daly City Mayor Madolyn Agrimonti deserves our vote in that one over political hack Lou Papan.

Yucking it up: Pat Buchanan says that "going to a Dole rally is like visiting a funeral parlor." But "Ole Bob" is no slouch in the humor department, either. He once got a chuckle at a Gridiron Club dinner when he described a reunion of three former presidents, thusly: "Carter, Ford and Nixon: See no evil, hear no evil, and evil." Meanwhile, a new bumper sticker spotted in D.C. last week reads "Dole in '96: A Dark Man for Dark Times."

Former Mayor Frank Jordan, Wendy Paskin Jordan, Bob Ross, Kathy Grogan, John Moylan, Teri Landini, and Saleem Dajwod are among those hosting a fundraising dinner for Municipal Court candidate Kay Tsenin, March 20, at the New Pisa Restaurant in North Beach (cocktails, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7:30 p.m.; \$100; 668-1410 for info).

Another loss: a memorial service for longtime labor/civil rights activist Pat Jackson, a special friend of the gay and lesbian community, will be held this Saturday, March 16, 12:30 p.m., at Mission Dolores.

In Salt Lake City, the Utah Log Cabin Club, a group of gays and lesbians, has added "Republican" to its name. Meanwhile, state Democrats there recently asked the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats to drop "Democrat" from their name. The group refused to do so.

Surprising good news: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili, appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, denounced the newly enacted policy that would force members who test positive for the HIV virus out of the service, calling it "unfair" and saying that it also wastes money that has been spent on training.

Clinton's cronies: openly gay and very powerful Hollywood entertainment magnate David Geffen hosted a whopping \$25,000-per-person party at his Malibu home last Friday night for President Clinton, with big spenders like Steve Jobs (Apple Computers), August Busch IV (the beer heir) and other Beverly Hills movers-and-shakers enjoying dishing the political dirt with the prez for a couple of hours.

San Francisco's new D. A. Terence Hallinan is becoming a national political celebrity with featured stories in newsmagazines, the LA Times, the NY Times, and an upcoming spot on CBS's highly-rated 48 Hours.

Former Governor Jerry Brown on Pat Buchanan: "A KKK-loving, anti-Semitic, Dixie-singing bogeyman." Brown adds that Dole's only chance in November is if Colin Powell joins the GOP ticket and Hillary Rodham Clinton is indicted. "That might shift things a little," he opined.

The Quote of the Week is from the LA Times' Robert Scheer: "Pat Buchanan is not a fascist, as [NY Times] columnist Abe Rosenthal once charged; he's not that sincere. This is one dangerous demagogue with a long history of hostility toward gays ('the pederast proletariat'), feminists ('the butch brigade'), women ('less equipped psychologically to stay the course') and American Jews (Israel's 'amen corner'). Even William F. Buckley Jr. concluded that Buchanan's persistent slanders against American Jews 'could not reasonably be interpreted as other than anti-Semitic in tone and in substance.' His immigrant bashing has long had a racist undertone. In 1984, Buchanan argued that Americans would have to decide 'whether the United States of the 21st century will remain a white nation' and later warned about an invasion of 'Zulus.'" ▼



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Never Cry Wolf

by Beth Elliott

As someone with a self-contradictory emotional make-up — that is, as a madcap with a broad streak of melancholy leading to occasional struggles to resist lapsing into depression — I'm both accustomed to and well-practiced at the art of attitude adjustment. Sometimes this means processing feelings about weighty matters on the fly so as to keep them from

spoiling occasions for joy and bliss. While successfully accomplishing same can bring a great feeling of relief, there are times when whatever is creating the sorrowful part of the equation makes me angry for its being a senseless, avoidable, tragic waste.

The weekend before the deadline for this installment of Sapphistication was just such an occasion. Goddess be thanked, the all-important second date with that gorgeous, adventuresome blond

artist exceeded my fondest expectations. (There's some weird Texas theme going on here; I wrote about a cute Texan last week, my baby brother and sister-in-law are expecting a baby in Texas, and I'm dating a Texas babe. Go figure.) That Saturday morning, though, there was a report in the morning *Chronicle* that literally reduced me to tears.

We're having a public school teachers' strike here in Oakland. While the School Board claims wages and classroom sizes are in line with comparable districts, the teachers are claiming they're underpaid and the schools are underfinanced. Meanwhile, the district is undeniably top-heavy with highly-paid administrators, who naturally are trying to save their plush salaries. Unfortunately, one of these bureaucrats resorted to a ploy akin to the pseudo-patriotism said to be the last refuge of the scoundrel.

Race card

First, she cited the fact that the administration is heavily black, while half the striking teachers are white (the *Examiner* reported this latter is due to African-American teachers having left to take jobs in the suburbs). Second, she said this meant the teachers and their union were striking not over issues but as a racist attack on black professionals. Third, when criticized for framing this as a racial dispute, she allegedly called her critic, in a hallway argument, a white man's, er, African-American lackey.

That's when I started crying, when I read that. For any number of reasons, I'd like to live in a society in which we're all just folks. As a rock 'n' roller, I'm grateful for how my life has been culturally enhanced by African America. I hate it when somebody cries wolf like this, because I can just imagine the ammunition it gives to people who want to dismiss the fact that the playing field isn't quite level — or want to keep it tilted in their favor.

I know some people expect me, as a Euro-American, to believe any cry of racism, to refrain from criticizing anyone who labels anything racism, and to advocate redistribution of resources (like high-paying school administration jobs) even when merit gets shortchanged. No can do, folks — you wanted principles, you're getting principles. Besides, there have of late been some really bogus calls to which people of good will cannot acquiesce. Some, like the misdirection play in the teachers' strike, are ploys for group advantage at the expense of the children who are our future. (Even if you have none of your own, you must admit the next generation's being capable of keeping an economy going is, like, kind of essential.)

Commentary

An egregious example is the pending class action lawsuit seeking to throw out the CBEST teacher certification test. The CBEST is designed to ensure that teachers in California schools can read, write, and compute at a 10th grade level; the plaintiffs claim that because Euro-Americans pass in disproportionate numbers, it is an illegal IQ test.

Now, there are a number of things wrong with this picture. First, why expect only 10th grade skills of people we want to ensure that high school graduates can read, write, and compute at a high school graduate level, as preparation for an increasingly intellectually challenging job market? Second, passing the CBEST isn't exactly rocket surgery, especially for people whose jobs require five years of college. Third, they can't be bothered to take a remedial semester or two at a community college but expect entitlement to the jobs? I don't think so, Jack.

Intelligence insulted

And since I know a little more

than the average Sunday paper reader about Vancouver, I felt my intelligence was insulted by a recent article claiming "racism is rearing its ugly head" in Canada. What it described was reactions to rich capitalists from Hong Kong and Taiwan throwing the weight of their riches around in rude and culturally insensitive ways, like the Asian equivalent of the Ugly American.

The article didn't mention that the tax money that paid for Expo 86 was raised on the promise of replacing a run-down waterfront with new housing. Once built, though, the housing was only advertised overseas, and sold out before any locals could buy in.

Today's newcomers, instead of assimilating into a culture of making enough money to enjoy life, are hyper careerists. They buy and build million-dollar "monster homes" that cut the open space out of neighborhoods. They treat looking strangers in the eye and saying hello as rudeness, instead of accepting that this is polite, culturally appropriate behavior in Canada (and a good way to live, eh?). Meanwhile, "concepts like lining up," an entry assistance volunteer "said dryly, also need some explanation."

Perhaps the Vancouver locals are not racists but understandably resentful victims of boorish neo-colonialists. Perhaps critics of the CBEST lawsuit are not racists but citizens standing up for quality education over employment subsidies for the mediocre. Perhaps the Oakland teachers and their supporters are not racists but community-oriented advocates for children of all colors. And perhaps the people using the word "racist" against them are not fighters against oppression but a bunch of wankers angling for advantage at the expense of community credibility.

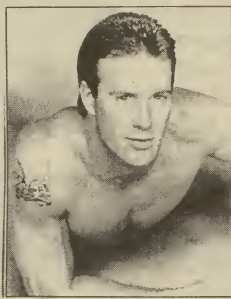
And perhaps somebody must risk saying some unpopular things, like: Pavlov is dead. And: Friends don't let friends cry wolf. ▼

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The Heat Is On



Photo: Jane Philomeni Celand

Over 1,000 people participated in the March 8 International Women's Day March that wound its way through the Mission to a rally in Dolores Park. The colorful banner reads: "International Women's Day: Women Turn Up the Heat."

Cyclical Business

by Mary Ann Swissler

San Francisco-based OUTSide Sports runs deluxe bicycle tours in the outlying areas of the city for both the novice and the experienced gay and lesbian cyclist. Owner Ken Brunt told the *B.A.R.* that tours start at around \$300 for weekend trips, including all meals and overnight stays in Northern California's cozier bed and breakfasts. They also come complete with "van support," in case of exhaustion or injuries, and are limited to groups of 16.



Photo: Ashley Devore

Pedal pushers: OUTSide Sports can get you cycling.

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For more information call Ken at (415) 864-7205, or contact OUTSide Sports by e-mail at OUTSports@aol.com, or visit their web site at http://www.webcastro.com/outside_sports.htm.

Ev'rything the Traffic Will Allow ...

Hit with a traffic ticket lately in our fair city? The bite to your wallet is enough to make a grown person cry - unless you laugh it off with a comedy traffic school. Judging from the high volume of business at the Gay and Lesbian Comedy Traffic School, at their sites at Metropolitan Community Church and Holiday Inn, it has been

come the traffic school of choice for the community.

Or, as one instructor calls them, "gay and lesbian traffic violators." The San Francisco performer and broadcaster who alternately calls herself Susan Kay and Susan Kay Gilbert, based on obscure reasons known only to Marin County girls like herself, has taught at the Gay and Lesbian Comedy Traffic School for a year and a half. She has also been in queer cable broadcasting, comedy, and other performance venues, and said that teaching at the traffic school "allows me to stay on top of my game. It allows me to keep my 'performance savvy,'" she explained.

Moreover, she can do it in a forum that allows her to keep in touch with the lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender community - and perhaps save lives at the same time.

Kay told the *B.A.R.* that, if nothing else, she wants "students to understand that your car is a weapon," and said, "I really enjoy being able to impart traffic safety and information, and keeping people in one piece."

She said she also enjoys having her students re-enact their "violations" in group performances.

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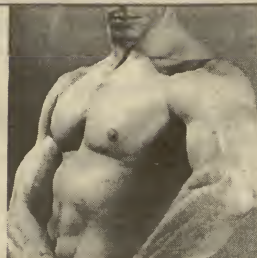
When Ozzie and Ozzie or Harriet and Harriet Need Help: In *The Family* is a new "therapy

magazine devoted to lesbian, gay, and bisexual families," published by In The Family Publishers in Maryland. It draws on therapists and counselors with experience in queer issues to offer all-around parenting advice: the premier issue goes over the psychological fall-out when one parent has no rights or responsibilities for a partner's children, how gay parents can handle talking about sex with their kids, why couples lose their sex life once kids enter the picture, and how lesbian and gay step-parents can forge strong, loving bonds with stepchildren. ▼

Subscriptions for the quarterly magazine are \$26 a year. Send check or money order to: In The Family, P.O. Box 5387, Takoma Park, MD 20913

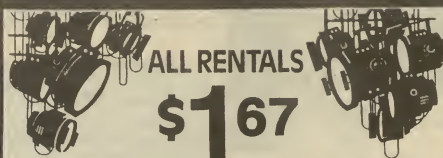
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The Woman for NOW: Kuehl Named Legislator of Year

by Mary Ann Swissler

The California chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW) awarded the Legislator of the Year Award to the state's only openly lesbian legislator, Sheila Kuehl, and to Assemblyman Tom Hayden. The awards ceremony was held February 26, at the close of a two-day NOW-sponsored Lobby Day that offered strategies on approaching legislators on gay, lesbian, and women's issues.

Kuehl told the *B.A.R.*, "There is nothing more gratifying than receiving praise from the praiseworthy. Being honored by NOW is being honored by my hardest-working peers, and I appreciate their work and I appreciate their praise."

The theories embraced by the

women's civil rights movement should also inform the work that we do in our own gay and lesbian civil rights movement, because, said Kuehl, "We don't fit gender stereotypes."

"I think it's extremely important for lesbians and gay men to work with statewide and national feminist organizations," she said, "because discrimination against us on the basis of sexual orientation is really exactly the same as discrimination against women."

LIFE Lobby legislative advocate Ellen B. McCormick added, "The importance of Sheila Kuehl is - first - that she is an outstanding legislator, and she is a strong voice for women who were victims of domestic violence and the gay and lesbian community." ▼

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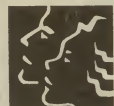
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Buchanan Chronicled

by Al Kielwasser

Mainstream coverage of the presidential primaries has been relatively disappointing. In addition to giving disproportionate attention to one self-loathing "gay for Buchanan," the press has hardly challenged the redundant claims of innocence made by Republicans who just can't understand why homophobes and racists keep popping up at their rallies ... and on their campaign staffs.

In a column printed in the *San Francisco Chronicle* ("As I See It," March 2), Cynthia Tucker — the editorial page editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* — offers an antidote. She argues that just as Pat Buchanan cannot claim any moral distance between himself and other hatemongers, neither can the Republican Party claim any distance between the GOP and Buchanan. The rhetoric Pat Buchanan spews is the rhetoric of hate, and it is the rhetoric of a hateful political party.

Of course, Buchanan claims he does not invite the KKK and Nazis to his rallies; they appear uninvited. But Tucker will have none of this nonsense. She notes: "It is no accident that white supremacists and militia supporters

make their way to the Buchanan camp. He speaks their language."

Likewise, it is no accident that Buchanan has "made his way" through the Republican camp. The party speaks his language. As Tucker argues: "The party courted racists and extremists and now wants to deny paternity of a hate-mongering campaign. Sorry, GOP: It won't wash. This kid is yours."

"The Grand Old Party has only itself to blame for Buchanan," Tucker writes, and "mainstream Republicans are unconvincing when they pretend otherwise." She adds, right on point: "Buchanan is no alien who appeared from outer space a la *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* — pretending to be a real Republican when he has merely assumed the appearance of one. Buchanan is a longtime party stalwart, a veteran of White House affairs with stints under two Republican presidents. ... Buchanan's supporters are no unwashed gate crashers thundering into a GOP tent. ... They were invited."

Unfortunately, Tucker's column is marred only by her inattentiveness to include the full range of Buchanan's hate. Notably, she fails to specifically mention his homophobic and sexist "extremes."

Nevertheless, Tucker's point is refreshing ... as is its appearance on the editorial page of the *Chronicle*, a Republican newspaper.

Send feedback to both the *Chronicle* and the *Constitution*. Contact: John Diaz, Editorial Page Editor, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 901 Mission Street, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-777-7018, fax 415-896-1107, e-mail chronletters@sfgate.com; Cynthia Tucker, Editorial Page Editor, *Atlanta Constitution*, 72 Marietta Street, NW, Atlanta GA 30303, fax 404-526-5746.

Fool's Goldust

Although the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) continues to ignore complaints that the WWF is promoting gay bashing through its weekly TV series, the press has paid some attention. The subject was recently examined through various media lenses — newspaper, magazine, and editorial cartoon.

At issue is "Goldust," a featured WWF character who plays a gay menace, jeered by the audience and bashed for amusement.

In an extensive article in the *Stamford Advocate* (February 25) — the daily newspaper in the WWF's hometown — staff writer Stacy Shelton did an admirable job of reporting on the Goldust controversy. Her balanced and well-researched piece included interviews with WWF staff, as well as perspectives from various lesbian/gay groups (GLAAD, Triangle Community Center, NGLTF). Significantly, Shelton's article allowed lesbian and gay individuals to express concerns over the connection between mediated hate violence and gay-bashing in real life.

Goldust is also the subject of scrutiny in a feature story for the May 1996 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, a monthly magazine not affiliated with the WWF. An image of Goldust fills the magazine's cover, beneath a headline that screams: "Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far!"

Inside the magazine, writer Stu Saks argues that "the WWF has done many off-beat things" and "on occasion, it has come very close to crossing the thin line between acceptability and tastelessness." However, Saks says, "when the WWF allowed Goldust to place the likeness of Razor Ramon [another WWF wrestler] on his outfit and pursue a romantic relationship with him, it went too far —

way too far."

Saks declares such a theme "un-natural," but manages to pull himself back — for a moment — from the brink of homophobic hyperbole. He goes on to say that the Goldust character "blatantly plays upon the stereotype of homosexuals and encourages us to laugh at them. It wouldn't be so offensive if Dustin Rhodes [who plays Goldust] really was a homosexual, but as far as we know, he isn't."

Despite the obvious drag-phobia and gender-rigidity in his observations, Saks makes this (relatively) "good" point: "The WWF ... is encouraging us to believe that all homosexuals act and dress as flamboyantly as Goldust and openly force themselves upon the heterosexual community. We thought this image of homosexuals disappeared in the 1960s; sadly, we were incorrect. The backward dangerous minds in the WWF still look upon the Goldust image as reality."

Unfortunately, Saks gives in to a familiar cliché-of-the-closet. He writes: "There might well be several homosexuals in wrestling, just as in any profession. But you would no more know that these people are homosexuals than you would know that the others are heterosexual, bisexual, or asexual." Of course pro wrestling promoters constantly signify the heterosexuality of their star performers.

Writing as if the Goldust affair were not scripted, Saks argues: "Even if he [Goldust] were [gay], the WWF should not be allowing — even encouraging — him to 'woo' Ramon during its telecasts. By doing so, it has alienated fans and probably a few sponsors. The first time he made romantic overtures toward Ramon, he should have been severely reprimanded, perhaps even fined or suspended, and told that such actions would not be tolerated during federation cards." Saks then adds, rhetorically to Goldust: "You want to pursue a relationship with Ramon? Do it on your own time."

Considering the source, Saks' feature article could be considered "progressive." However, any compliments must be amply hedged. Certainly, Saks could have more clearly supported positive gay TV characters. Even more significantly, he could have clearly denounced not only the way Goldust may treat Ramon, but the way Ramon (and other heterosexual characters) have treated Goldust ... by hurling homophobic epithets and, on one occasion, bashing him for being flirtatious. Once again, the *homosexual* rather than the *homophobe* is the suspect object of controversy.

Send constructive criticism and compliments, as warranted, to each of the following: Stuart M. Saks, Publisher, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002 (copy your correspondence to the magazine's reader comments — or "letters" — column, "Between Falls," Box 1148, Ft. Washington PA 19034). Stacy Shelton, Staff Writer, *Stamford Advocate*, Southern Connecticut Newspapers, Inc., 75 Tresser Blvd., P.O. Box 9307, Stamford CT 06904-9307, tel. 203-964-2257, fax 203-964-2345.

To report any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, call the 24-hour "MediAlert Hotline" (861-4588), or write to: GLAAD, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, SF CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glad@glad.org, URL <http://www.ccnet.com/gaytrek/glad.html>.

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'Party of Five' Star Comes Out at GLAAD/L.A. Show

by Karen Ocamb

Actor Mitchell Anderson asked at the Sunday, March 10 GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles to speak after the clip of *Ballot Measure 9*, named Outstanding Film Documentary for its depiction of the life and death struggle of Oregon gays and lesbians to defeat the anti-gay initiative. Anderson was there both as a TV star for his role as a gay teacher in the Emmy-winning show *Party of Five*, and as a board member of Artists for a Hate-Free America.

Seizing the podium, he took a moment to allow the applause to subside, and then waved aside the teleprompter with a trembling hand. He had to say something.

He spoke about a conversation he had just before the show, with a CNN reporter in the media line who asked him to be part of a story on "straight actors playing gay roles." And then, he told the crowd in an increasingly agitated voice, he had asked the reporter, "Why does everyone assume that only straight actors play those roles?"

"They are not always straight actors playing gay roles," he said. "I know because I'm not a straight actor."

One thousand and four hundred people in the Century Plaza Hotel ballroom leapt to their feet in thunderous applause. "We love you, Mitchell," yelled openly gay young actor Wilson Cruz. "I'm sure I love you too," Anderson quipped back.

It was the only standing ovation, in an evening that warranted several.

A Million Dollars Raised

No one could have predicted in 1991 when the first Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation awards dinner was held in a small room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel that there would be so many outstanding gay/lesbian positive portrayals to honor in 1996 that they would create "suspense" in two categories. And certainly no one could have imagined that, coupled with an earlier awards show in New York, GLAAD would raise about one million dollars or that the show would be fed "live" on the Internet over "Gay Daze."

But this year, with gay Hollywood popping out of closet doors across the media spectrum in the midst of a radical right backlash,



Mitchell Anderson

the GLAAD show was more timely, political, fun, and professional than ever.

After Anderson came out, he introduced GLAAD spokesperson Dohna Redwing, who brought news "from the front" about attacks against gay civil rights, and saluted the Hollywood audience as "our cultural warriors."

The warriors on hand included Cybill Shepherd, who opened the show with a rousing number; Luigi Amodeo (*High Society*); Chastity Bono; Dan Butler and David Hyde Pierce from *Frasier*, who teamed up for a funny bit; Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, who presented the Outstanding Television Film award to *Serving in Silence* producers Neil Merton and Craig Zaden; Tony Curtis, who talked about his bath scene in *Spartacus* with Laurence Olivier; Boy George, who won Outstanding Album and performed G.I. Josephine with back-up dancers; Arsenio Hall, who introduced — and was very chummy with — Boy George; Jessica Hecht and Jane Sibbett, who have stolen the hearts of lesbians everywhere as the lesbian couple/moms on *Friends*; Sharon Lawrence, Bill Brochtrup, and Justine Miceli from *NYPD Blue*, which beat out *Courthouse*, *Friends*, *Party of Five*, and *Sisters* for Outstanding Television Series; writer/producer Garry Marshall, who's been an awards participant since 1991; Nancy McKeon from *Can't Hurry Love*; Julie Newmar; producer/star Paul Reiser from *Mad About You*; Isabel Sanford from *The Jeffer-*

sons; Steven Weber from *Wings* and Jeffrey; funny Julie White from *Grace Under Fire*; Ming-Na Wen from *The Single Guy*; and honorary gay people Judith Light and Robert Desiderio, with their real gay managers Herb Hamsher and Jonathan Stoller.

Other award winners included *Boys on the Side*, which beat *Carrying On*, *Home for the Holidays*, and *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar* as Outstanding Studio Film. Whoopi Goldberg sent a video acceptance. *End of the World Party* and the Celebration Theater were honored as Outstanding Los Angeles Theater, and Heather McDonald accepted her award for *Ballot Measure 9*.

Almost all the presenters and recipients derided Pat Buchanan over the course of the evening — including singer Jill Sobule, awarded for her Outstanding Song "I Kissed a Girl." Accepting the award from *Friends* star David Schimmer after performing the song, Sobule said, with tongue planted firmly in cheek, that now she could reveal "my secret lover."

"She's the wife of a very important Republican hopeful whose initials are P.B."

Producer Sid Sheinberg, who started Hollywood Supports with Barry Diller, was more serious about the current political situation. In his remarks after he was honored with the Vanguard Award, Sheinberg noted that

"progress is rarely uninterrupted" and that "eternal vigilance is the price of freedom."

He warned against apathy, since "those who see homosexuality as an evil lifestyle are not likely to disappear." Despite increased visibility, he said, "I do not believe our commitment to GLAAD can be lessened."

"Unfortunately, the fight has only just begun." ▼

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GLAAD/SF To Hold Intergalactic Party

by Michelle DeRanleau

Queers who think it's queer that no one on the new hit *Star Trek* series *Voyager* is queer can find out why at a Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation party and benefit this Tuesday, March 19.

GLAAD's San Francisco Bay Area chapter is hosting from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. the *Star Trek* party at the Icon Byte Bar and Grill, located at Ninth and Folsom streets.

The event will help raise community awareness of GLAAD's efforts to get gays and lesbians on *Voyager*, and to discuss the issue of gay and lesbian invisibility on the show, learn of recent developments in GLAAD/SFBA's efforts, and to view highlights of a gay-themed episode.

"In [*Star Trek* creator] Gene Roddenberry's future, racism, sexism and violence had been eliminated on earth. Undoubtedly, homophobia would have been eliminated along with other forms of intolerance and bigotry," says Tim Perkins, director of GLAAD's *Voyager* Visibility Project. "But what we see on the show is that gay and lesbian people are totally and completely invisible and absent." ▼

GLAAD/SFBA has a website at <http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek>

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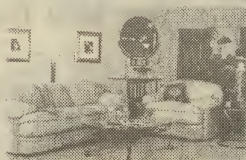
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Divine Davis

Activist Angela Davis spoke March 9 at an International Women's Day event drawing attention to the lack of women's healthcare in California prisons. An SRO audience at the Women's Building enjoyed the many speakers and the two bands.

Community Forum Called on Speed Use

by Hakeem Oseni II

Can't get no sleep?

Q Action and the guys and gals at the Stop AIDS Project will be holding a forum on crystal and speed use next Thursday, March 21 at the Women's Building, located at 3543 18th Street in the Mission.

The forum has been called at a time when new research by the Center For AIDS Prevention Studies, involving gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, indicates speed/crystal users are five times more likely to become infected with HIV than non-users.

The Drug

"Speed is anything that is a drastic upper, generally amphetamines," according to Matthew Denckla, the STOP AIDS Project volunteer and Health Information Specialist at the Marin AIDS Project who will moderate the forum.

"Crystal meth amphetamine is currently the most popular and one of the most potent forms of speed. In my opinion it is fueling the late night party scene in San Francisco. It's like a longer-lasting, stronger, cheaper alternative to drugs like cocaine.

"Crystal is turning into the pink elephant of the cocktail party that is San Francisco. Everyone sees it, everyone knows about it, but very few people are talking about it because it's taboo.

"Sex and crystal seem to be a uniquely powerful combination for a lot of people, and while high they may or may not be protecting themselves," he said.

"Crystal effects the arousal system, either delaying orgasm or making it more difficult to get aroused, so people may be having sex much longer or harder," Denckla explained. "If they are having unsafe sex to begin with, and instead of an hour, they have sex for six hours, something is more likely to go wrong."

He went on to say the downside of crystal is that it temporarily depletes brain chemicals, and coming down from crystal in large doses can lead to temporary psychotic states.

"Occasionally people get extremely depressed or violent when crashing from crystal. There are physical problems associated with stimulants on the heart and vascular system. Not to mention the problems that come from sleep deprivation, and malnutrition from skipping meals because you're too high to be hungry."

No judgment

"This is something we don't [normally] talk about," Q Action Media Coordinator David Boyer told the B.A.R. "It takes place in the dark crowded clubs, at night, or behind closed doors. If people are using or have friends who are using, this community forum is a

way to get more information and ask questions - and if they are in need, to get help. It's a first step.

"We are not preaching to people, we are giving them information. The choices are theirs to make. It's not about judgment, it's about caring for one's own."

Panelists will include Michael Gorman, researcher from the University of Washington; Michael Siever, from Operation Recovery's Psychotherapy Program in association with Operation Concern/18th Street Services; and two people from the community who have used speed in the past.

In addition, Q Action and STOP AIDS, in conjunction with 18th Street Services/Operation Concern, will be distributing a comprehensive brochure about the effects of crystal use and ways to be safer.

"We want people to discuss how speed and crystal use impacts the queer community, its mental health, and its ability to increase the transmission of HIV/AIDS," Boyer told the B.A.R.

Denckla identified three goals: "To spark dialogue about the impact of crystal on our community, inform ourselves of the health risks of crystal and the related risk of HIV infection, and to generate ideas of what people can do for themselves and their community regarding this issue." He says he is looking forward to questions from the audience. ▼

Fraud

Continued from page 1

havior upon extremely vulnerable people who are the least able to protect themselves," Millstein said. "It's despicable behavior and we want to bring this guy to justice and hold him accountable."

Lewis, who also allegedly billed himself as a psychologist to some clients and a nurse to others, operated Health Continuum, a mental health clinic that opened in 1993 at 988 Market Street and provided sliding-scale services to low-income clients, Millstein said.

The clinic advertised in the gay press that it accepted insurance and credit cards and provided "for all your health care needs" including medical, psychological, social work nursing care, and care and counseling for people with HIV/AIDS.

Details about the case are sealed, because of patients' right to medical privacy issues, but the Bay Area Reporter has learned Lewis was so skillful at his charade he convinced one pharmaceutical company he was a licensed physician, to obtain medication samples at the low-income clinic.

Lewis also allegedly routinely wrote or phoned-in his patients' drug prescriptions to local pharmacies - using the fraudulently-obtained dispensing number of a legitimate physician - and fraudulently billed insurance companies for his medical services.

The drugs that Lewis allegedly prescribed included medications used in the treatment of mental conditions that ranged from anxiety to major mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and manic-depression.

A Different Continuum

Although Martin initially advertised his clinic as "Health Continuum," he later changed its name to "Health Constellation" after receiving a letter from attorneys for Continuum HIV Day Services, according to that non-profit agency's executive director and clinical psychologist Dr. William Glenn.

Glenn told the B.A.R. it was especially ironic that Lewis named his operation Health Continuum, because he had applied for a position with Continuum HIV Day Services just six months before he opened the 988 Market Street site.

"He applied for a job here as a

social worker. It was atrocious," Glenn said. "I felt he was very slick and deeply insincere - and his listening skills were non-existent."

Like Glenn, psychiatrist Bob Cabaj M.D., a spokesperson for the national Lesbian and Gay Medical Association, expressed concern for the vulnerable victims allegedly betrayed by Lewis. He expressed concern that Lewis's gay and lesbian (and other) victims might now be reluctant to seek needed professional help because of the fraud.

"It's such a violation," Cabaj said. "He was preying on some of the most vulnerable people."

Lewis is described as a 34-year-old white male with blond hair and blue eyes, 5'10" tall, weighing 180 pounds. He frequented the Midnight Sun Bar, on 18th Street near Castro, and is known to travel to Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties. His last known vehicle was a 1973 Ford sedan bearing the license number 184HKQ.

Any victims of Lewis, or anyone with information about his current whereabouts, should contact Investigator Walls at the DA's Special Prosecutions office at (415) 552-6400, extension 30. ▼

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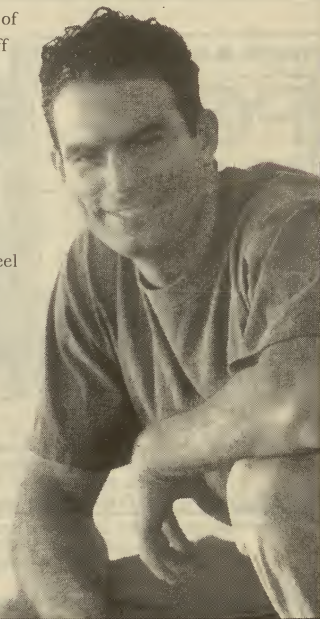
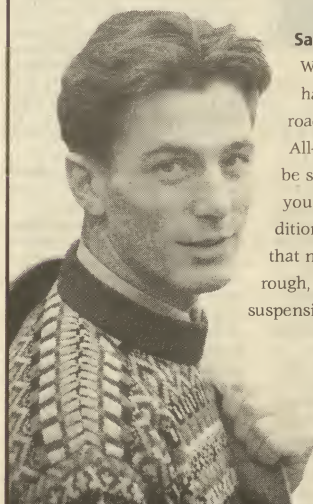
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Urvashi Vaid Featured at This Year's LAVA Awards

Hyder, Ordona, Rosenberg, Too!

by Mary Ann Swissler

Lesbian activist Urvashi Vaid will deliver the keynote address at the 1996 Lesbians of Achievement, Vision and Action (LAVA) Awards, sponsored by A Fund Of Our Own endowment fund.

Honorees during the fourth annual benefit, scheduled for Saturday, March 16, include Happy/L.A. Hyder, Trinity Ordona, and Shoshana Rosenberg. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a no-host cocktail reception inside the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Hotel, followed by dinner and the awards ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Dancing to the music of Second Wind will follow.

As in previous years, the funny and knowledgeable JoAnn Loulan will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Vaid has been a brash, yet articulate and witty, voice in the gay and lesbian movement for the past 15 years, as executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force from 1989 to 1992, and as an ACLU attorney working on behalf of HIV/AIDS issues and prisoners. She is the author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation*, and was named as one of *Time* maga-



Urvashi Vaid.

zine's 50 most promising leaders under the age of 40.

Hyder is being recognized for founding Lesbian Visual Artists, an international network of lesbian artists and slide registry dedicated to gaining visibility for the work of lesbian artists.

Ordona is the co-founder of

Asian Pacific Sisters, now the Asian/Pacific Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Network, which works for social change and empowerment for people of color.

Rosenberg is the Executive Director of San Francisco Women's Centers/The Women's Building, and has been involved in the center for 15 years. She began her involvement in the center as a volunteer electrician/contractor and is responsible for the building's current renovations.

Previous honorees for the LAVA Awards, made possible with funds raised by Bay Area Career Women's A Fund Of Our Own, have included Roberta Achtenberg, Barbara Cameron, Deborah Chasoff, Glenn Craig, Maria Cora, Judy Dlugacz, Tracy Gary, Ruth Mahaney, Adele Prandini, Lisbet Tellefsen, Helen Vozenilek, and Doreena Wong. BACW has raised and distributed more than \$150,000 to a broad range of programs in the Bay Area.

Tickets this year are \$80 per person for first-time LAVA attendees and \$100 per person for general admission. Tables of ten, special honoree tables, and financial assistance are available. ▼

Call (415) 495-5393 for more information.

Gomez To Discuss Jewish, African-American Relations

by Mary Ann Swissler

Black lesbian activist, essayist, and poet Jewelle Gomez will speak from personal experience at a forthcoming talk in San Francisco, focusing on relations between the African-American and Jewish communities.

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, Gomez will appear on a speakers' panel Thursday, March 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the center, located at 3200 California Street.

Others on the panel include Eva Jefferson Patterson, executive director of Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights; Naomi Newman, co-creator of the nationally touring play about Black-Jewish relations, *Crossing the Broken Bridge*; Dr. Denise Davis, African-American Jewish physician and musician; and Jenny Helbraun Abramson, who teaches the history of Black-Jewish relations and is assistant director of Hillel of Northern California. It will be moderated by documentary filmmaker Deborah Kaufman, producer of *Blacks and Jews*.

The workshop will look at historical alliances that have existed between African-Americans and Jews, and among other minorities — as well as take stock of potential alliances.

Gomez is African-American, and her partner, chiropractor Dr. Diane Sabin, is Jewish. Beginning in 1995, Gomez has been Writer-in-Residence for BRAVA! for Women in the Arts. She has published several books of poetry and fiction, including *The Gilda Stories*, which has been turned into a play, *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*, currently touring the country.



Jewelle Gomez.

Gomez spoke to the B.A.R. about her background and her relationship with Sabin, whom she met in 1984, when Sabin was producing an event in San Francisco. She acknowledged that although religious and cultural differences may enhance any relationship, it's also a stretch.

"I recommend that people not be so afraid of them," she said, "and acknowledge that they take more work."

She named some of the positive stuff she's gotten from the culturally diverse relationship, saying, "We make each other's worlds bigger. ... I would say that we both give each other access to a larger world, because we now share a family; we have access to experiences, to ways of thinking, to ways of problem-solving, to

ways of feeling that we wouldn't naturally have access to if we weren't part of each other's family now.

"But we bring each other the tough stuff, too. We can't presume things, certain types of knowledge. We both carry two different, collective histories. Sometimes communication is more extensive."

'What Do I Believe In?'

The couple is "child-free," as Gomez called it, but have discussed the religious aspects of child-rearing. "I told her if we did have children I'd be willing to convert, but I think I would raise them much more ecumenically," as parents are more free to do in urban centers like San Francisco, where cross-cultural relationships get more support. "People encourage that kind of interaction and that kind of interdisciplinary spiritual life," she said.

Which, she added, is precisely the cure for what's ailing society.

"I think that during this particular period all communities find ourselves in a position to review what our politics have been for the past 50 years," she said. "Philosophically, we have to be considering how we make coalitions and what it is we think we're struggling for."

She added that she queries different parts of her identities on these issues. "As a lesbian, what do I believe in, beyond simply believing in equal rights for lesbians?"

"Same as a black woman: what do I believe in?" ▼

Tickets are on sale for \$10. Call (415) 292-1254 for information.

Oh, Kay: Tsenin Runs for SF Muni Court Judge

by Mary Ann Swissler

San Francisco lesbian attorney Kay Tsenin, running for Municipal Court judge in the March 26 election, has built the kind of broad appeal that most queer candidates only dream about, based on 21 years of practicing civil law for working-class families, feminists, seniors, and her own gay and lesbian community. Nor is she a stranger to grass-roots community activism: from 1979 to 1984 she served as the Chair of the Grievance Hearing Panel of the Marin County Housing Authority; she has taught many free classes and workshops sponsored by community organizations on topics ranging from civil rights to estate planning; and in 1986 the Marin Abused Women's Services honored her with an Achievement Award for her volunteer work surrounding domestic violence issues, which stretched back to 1976, when she founded Marin Abused Women's Services.

As a result of her diverse background, and the diversity of her supporters, she told the *B.A.R.*, "My campaign has tremendous volunteer effort that may not be coming from a recognizable and identifiable political group."

After a somewhat low profile at the beginning of the campaign, Tsenin (pronounced SEN-en) told the *B.A.R.* her large base of community support is starting to pay off. She received a ringing endorsement this week from the *Bay Guardian*, which called her a natural for the "people's court," and someone who speaks in nuts-and-bolts terms about issues facing Municipal Court.

She has also earned the support of Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, Supervisors Susan Leal, Angela Alioto, and Barbara Kaufman, and a host of attorneys, senior citizens groups, and feminist organizations such as the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC). In addition, Tsenin has been recommended for the job by the judge who is vacating the seat, Municipal Court Judge Lillian Sing, possibly because she is the only candidate who has actually worked as a judge - having filled in many times as Judge Pro Tem - and as a court-appointed arbitrator with both the Superior and Municipal Courts.

She added that her support is actually more widespread than some would have voters believe. "When Ron [Albers, another candidate] received the endorsement of the Republican Party," which



Kay Tsenin

accounts for just 17 percent of the registered voters in the city, she said, "he got an article about that in the legal newspaper. When I get the endorsement of the National Organization for Women and the National Women's Political Caucus, which represents 52 percent of the vote in this city, nobody wants to write about it."

"It's not only marginalization of myself, it's also discounting the political clout of women in this city."

She added that Albers's downtown endorsements do not encompass the whole of the city. "There is a life beyond Divisadero," said Tsenin. "I have endorsements that go West of Twin Peaks. I have a lot of support in the Richmond and the Sunset Districts, and I have, most importantly, the support of women."

A Gordian Knot

And as a Russian-American who moved to the Richmond District from China with her parents when she was eight, Tsenin has kept in touch with and helped both these minority communities. She has provided free legal advice to low-income Russian and Asian seniors, and would become the first Russian-American elected to any office in San Francisco.

She stressed that during her tenure on the bench, she will work to identify candidates of color for the next election. "If there are openings, we will have a candidate of color ready to run," she said.

But most of all, Tsenin told the *B.A.R.*, the judicial system in San Francisco has become a Gordian knot of bureaucracy for most people whose budgets are already stretched thin, and needs to be guided through a series of low- or no-cost reforms. These include Saturday court sessions for small claims court, traffic court and bail

hearings, working to reduce duplication of services, and to reduce case backlog through mediation and arbitration at earlier stages of a case.

"I would immediately start talking about making some of those changes," which need to be reviewed by committee and the sitting judge on the Municipal Court who is rotated every six months. "I would hope that three years into it, my entire package would be done."

She would also implement half-day jury trials to allow men and women to be home for their kids or to maintain their businesses, Tsenin said. "It would be a fairly simple thing if I had a sympathetic presiding judge, and I think most of the judges in the Municipal Court are sympathetic. So it's something I could start almost immediately."

More complex projects, such as setting up a self-service type of program for clients to represent themselves, would require applying for grants and working with the Bar Association, she said.

Best of all, she said that these projects would not cost anything, and might even save money in some cases where there would be less paperwork being processed by fewer people. And attorneys, she said, would welcome time-saving proposals with open arms. "That would mean more time that they could spend on the beach, if you know what I mean," she commented. ▼



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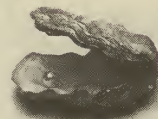
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Kind to Trees, Sweetie

by David O'Connor

The Corona Heights neighborhood, just northwest of the Castro, will get a little greener in May when Friends of the Urban Forest will plant more than 50 trees. Area residents still have time to get a tree at their doorstep.

Robert Tackes, who lives on States Street, is organizing the planting, set for May 4.

"I like trees," Tackes said. "I love living in the city, and I believe in making the city more livable."

Anyone in San Francisco can contact Friends of the Urban Forest to set up a planting in their neighborhood. But to participate in the Corona Heights project, people must live in the area bordered by Market Street, Castro Street, Roosevelt Way, and Clay-

ton Street.

Each tree costs \$25, and the property owner must give his or her okay. Interested Corona Heights residents should contact Tackes for an application before April 10.

Besides beautifying a street, trees cut down on noise and, said Tackes, the drive to forest his neighborhood has fostered cooperation among neighbors.

"Part of it is to give some pride in maintaining property," Tackes said. "I would like to see a lot more people planting trees."

Friends of the Urban Forest was founded in 1981, and planted its 20,000th tree in February. The organization plants trees in the city every Saturday. To reach Friends of the Urban Forest, call Mel Johnson at (415) 247-1623. ▼

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This knowledge makes its own case for doing your part to make the neighborhood appealing. The time to take remedial action is before you think about moving if your house is the one with peeling paint, overgrown bushes, rusty bicycles, and cracked sidewalks. The value of your home will be largely determined by the recent selling prices for comparable properties, and neighborhood "eyesores" do not help to keep the values up. Even if you don't feel that you will ever move again, you will enjoy living in a house that is a real source of pride.

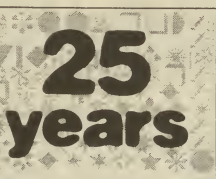
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Dance-A-Thon Generates More Money than Ever

by Doug Seto

More than 7,000 dancers raised \$1,047,425 at this year's AIDS Dance-A-Thon Saturday, March 9 in San Francisco's Moscone Center, beating last year's record total of \$1,003,527.

Crystal Waters, SILK, Jimmy Somerville, Jon B., 16-year-old sensation Lina Santiago, and Naughty By Nature performed their hit songs at the event, which *Living Single* stars Erika Alexander and TC Carson hosted again, along with Queen Latifah and San Francisco comedienne Margaret Cho.

"I'm here to represent the fag-hag contingent," said Cho. "How many of you ladies are out there?" Her question was followed by wild screams and cheers by the large contingent of female, white, suburban teens waving their hands in approval.

"When I was young I prayed that I'd be surrounded by gorgeous guys," continued Cho, "but I suppose I should have been more specific."

Later, Cho introduced British pop-star Jimmy Somerville to sing "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" as the Bay Area Raw Rahs, the official Dance-A-Thon time-keepers and well-known gay male cheerleader group, hopped and danced in single file through the crowd.

A screaming teenager ran her hands over the torso, hips, and chest of one of the Raw Rahs. "You're so gorgeous," she said. "Sorry honey - I'm gay," he politely responded while bouncing and waving his red pom-poms.

An hour later, the Raw Rahs went back on stage to cheer the coming of the fourth hour of the Dance-A-Thon. Cho went onstage too, with more jokes and the introduction of the Grammy-nominated performer Jon B.

"I wish to dedicate this song to all you out there who care," he said before performing his hit single, "Someone To Love."

The Performers Speak

When the *Bay Area Reporter* spoke with Jon B. later, he began his interview rather shyly, by advocating his spirituality and talking about how it helped him become who he is.

The B.A.R. asked if his spirituality somehow compelled him to volunteer his time to help organi-



The Moscone crowd boogied to the likes of Jimmy Somerville and Naughty by Nature, among others.

zations fighting AIDS.

"Oh yes - most definitely," he responded.

When asked if he was a Christian, his first response was a question: "Who are you with?"

When he learned the B.A.R. was a paper for the gay community, he said, "When it comes down, I'm a Christian, but I am with every religion." When asked if his brand of Christianity accepted homosexuals, he said, "Gay, straight, whatever, on drugs, not on drugs, everybody needs a god. When I sing, I don't take credit. God is with me - God is a path."

He also made it clear to the B.A.R. that "I don't advocate any [religious right-wing political leaders]," and said, "We need to get them out of there," waving his hands as if parting the Red Sea.

Jon B. is currently working on a new album due out next September. "I'm thinking of calling it 'One Love Protection' because that's what I live my life by," he said.

Not all the performers were so friendly, however. Naughty by Nature gangsta rap star Letch obliquely referred to a controversy of three years ago, when some of co-host Queen Latifah's close associates made disparaging remarks about gays, and her refusal to denounce the statements led

prominent members of the gay community to label her as a gay-basher - while her refusal to support them led some hip-hop fans to believe she was a lesbian.

"If it weren't for the Queen [Latifah]," he said from the stage, "all you motherfuckers would be meeting us on a sour note."

Suddenly, an unopened condom whizzed by like a Ninja throwing-star, barely missing his face.

'Sex Is Good'

By far the most popular speaker at the event was Jeff Getty, the Oakland PWA who received a bone marrow transplant from a baboon last December. Seven thousand people made a deafening joyous noise when he was introduced, causing him to choke up for a second - but he recovered. And when he told the dancers to protect themselves during sex, stressing "sex is good," the roar of approval quickly got much louder.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence helped reinforce the protection theme by giving participants free condoms - some of which were immediately blown up and bounced around the arena like beach balls.

"This is my third [Dance-A-

Thon]," said Sister Kitty Catalyst O.C.P., self-described homo-propagandist, change agent, feminazi, and 21st-century nun. "This is the second time the Sisters have been passing out condoms."

"We always run out before nine o'clock," said another sister.

"It's nice to see so many people here from so many diversities," Dennis Chase, Names Project treasurer, told the B.A.R.

This was Chase's third Dance-A-Thon, he said, and a first for the Names Project as a group.

"I'm dancing for everyone and with everyone," said 34-year-old Mark Salani. "This is my sixth Dance-A-Thon. Mainly, I have no time to volunteer for anything else."

Nearby stood 30-year-old Craig McIntire, who said, "One of my friends is positive and I like how it brings everyone together regardless of race, sexual orientation, and age."

The San Francisco Spiders mascot was willing - but unable - to comment.

The Funky Fair

As if performing celebrities, music, dancing, and hot-looking people were not enough, participants were also treated to complimentary food and beverage buffets, mainly turkey sandwiches, cookies, yogurt, juice, ice-cream, and fruit. In addition, the Dance-A-Thon had its second Funky Fair, a shopping bazaar where participants could purchase raffle tickets for prizes like an autographed Steve Young football, free trips, and dinners.

The Funky Fair also offered massages, private photo sessions with celebrities, and tarot card readings. One of the psychics, Jonnie Phoenix, volunteered to see if the cards or spirits had a special message for B.A.R. readers. Based upon the six cards chosen, especially the center card of The Lovers, he said, "The Lovers is about how people care for others and for life. People who love for others are the ones you want to be with."

"Especially those who can take one day out of their schedules to help save lives."

Later, near midnight, everyone was tired. The food and drink was about gone. The d.j. played "So Long, Farewell" from *The Sound Of Music*. It was time to go. ▼

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(Public Vote)
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Gay Super Model of The World

Mr. and Ms. Rawhide II
International Mr. Drummer
Mr. and Miss Asian Pacific
Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco
Transgender Cotillion

OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISER
(Public Vote)
AIDS Dance-A-Thon
Dine and Donate
Divas In Vegas
Golden Shear Competition
Help Is On The Way S.F. Cares
One Night in Heaven (Carol
Channing Diamond Awards)
Priscilla Queen Of The Desert
Benefit

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
EVENT**
(Public Vote)
AIDS Walk
Castro Street Fair
Folsom Street Fair
Leather Walk
Pink Saturday

OUTSTANDING EVENT
(Public Vote)
Bear Rendezvous
Betty Boop "Boop-A-Like"
Frameline Gala
Jeffrey Movie Premier
"Taking Our Place At the Table" -
The 12th Annual Alliance
Dinner Dance
Uniform Leather Ball
"World Tour" Academy Of Friends
Oscar Gala

**OUTSTANDING EVENT BY
INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL BUSINESS**
(Public Vote)
13th Anniversary Rawhide II
AIDS Mega Mix
Emperor Norton's Tribute
Leather Extravaganza
"Take A Second Look" Fashion
Show
The Polk/Castro Station AEF
Benefit Nights
The Sissy Spaceout Worlds Smallest
Drag Show

**OUTSTANDING THEME
DECORATIONS**
(Public Vote)
Marlena's - Halloween
Metro - Christmas
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Rawhide II - Christmas
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TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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CALIFORNIA NEWS

Artist and AIDS Activist Cory Roberts-Auli Dies in LA

Spearheaded AB101 Riots, 'Infected Faggot Perspectives'

by Karen Ocamb

In a time when AIDS vigils seem passé, the friends of artist/activist Cory Roberts-Auli gathered twice to commemorate his death early March 10 from AIDS. He was one month shy of his 33rd birthday.

About 20 people gathered for two hours on a grassy area across from Being Alive in Roberts-Auli's old Silverlake neighborhood Sunday night for a celebratory (and angry) candlelight vigil. Lightbulbs thrown into a huge bonfire brought out the fire department. Signs such as "Another Infected Queer Dead - What Does It Take To Make You Angry?" attracted passerby attention - as did the go-go dancers.

A Monday morning gathering at a boathouse in Echo Park was more reflective and personal.

Cory Roberts-Auli was born April 10, 1963 of mixed Puerto Rican-Irish heritage, and grew up in what he described as a "welfare ghetto" in Rockland County, New Jersey. After a difficult childhood, he ran away to New York City at

age 16.

"I have always known who I am and have always had a strong sense of survival," he told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview two days before his death. "I learned how to take care of myself, find a job - just take care of business. If there's something in life that needs to be worked out, I've always had the ability to focus on it and overcome it. I have a stubbornness and a real drive to succeed."

fliers saying, "You're gay. You're going to die of AIDS. We're here to save you."

"We didn't want them distributing their fliers in our neighborhood. It was really cruel," he said. "So we went down to their church and did a demonstration. There were about 300 people from ACT UP and Queer Nation - including Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. One of the best things John Chidester [Sister X] ever said was that people forget that we have



Cory Roberts-Auli shows his bruises after a 1991 police beating.

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Queer Nation. Now I think we've taken it into our lives — so activism isn't really dead.

"If we had one goal and that was it — then we've succeeded. Sure, we made mistakes. We didn't know about medications. We didn't know that AZT didn't work. We fought really hard for it and people died. But it changed the way clinical trials are done.

"We still have a long way to go — the CDC still refuses to include a category for lesbians. But people are working for it behind the scenes."

A 'Leader'

Roberts-Auli was also in the forefront of the AB 101 demonstrations in Los Angeles, after Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the so-called gay civil rights bill in the fall of 1991. He had been identified as a "leader" by the Los Angeles Police, who tried to negotiate with him during the first night of protests. After he said he couldn't speak for the people, the police "swarmed" him, initiating what looked to many like a "police riot" with cops in riot gear using baton blows against fleeing and sometimes trapped demonstrators at the Century Plaza Hotel.

"I got beaten up pretty badly, and it impacted how I did my activism. I was more aware that people were out to hurt me," he recalled. "It didn't stop me but it held me back. There were many things I didn't do that I would have done." He was charged with 18 felony counts of assault against police officers and their horses.

After an ACT UP legal representative told police that Roberts-Auli had AIDS and needed his medication, "the police wrote up one count of assault with a deadly weapon — my saliva. They took me from one jail to the next and drove around for several hours



Center of the swarm: Cory Roberts-Auli is downed by LA's finest during a 1991 AB 101 protest.

hiding me. They were trying to intimidate me. 'You started this, didn't you? What else have you done?' I was handcuffed the whole time."

He eventually was released at dawn, after agreeing to plead guilty to a misdemeanor and agreeing not to join in any subsequent lawsuits.

One of his greatest achievements, Roberts-Auli said, was helping to defeat SB 982, a California bill that would have "criminalized" sex. The bill would have

required potential sex partners to disclose their HIV status and discuss how HIV is transmitted before engaging in sexual activity, with stiff punishment if they did not.

"It played into AIDS hysteria and made people with AIDS look like predators looking to infect people," he said. Roberts-Auli formed a coalition among groups that had previously not worked together, and launched a media campaign that eventually got the bill squashed.

Fluid Paintings

Roberts-Auli started painting — with his blood and other body fluids — in October of 1992, when his neuropathy kept him bedridden. His abstract works of art were shown at the Berlin AIDS Conference, where he met his lover, Karstan Schatz. "I thought it was really significant to take the blood from within and wear it on the outside," he said. "You can't fight something you're too terrified to look at. I felt it was important for people to experience their blood and their disease.

"As a painter I challenge the perception that I am a victim, patient, client, hero, deviant. My paintings give people the opportunity to rethink and experience how people with AIDS have been portrayed, and they make tangible how HIV is transmitted through the exchange of certain bodily fluids." His paintings and shrouds have been on display throughout the world, the collection of which will be overseen by the New York-based Estate Project for Artists with AIDS.

Roberts-Auli lived as fully as possible until the end. His room at the Chris Brownlie Hospice was festooned with shimmering gold streamers and a string of "Happy Birthday" signs celebrating his seven-year clean and sober AA "birthday" on February 18. For two days before his death he was chatting with friends from his bed. Schatz was almost always at his side.

In his final interview, Roberts-Auli said he wished he'd gotten more involved with helping street kids "because that's really where the help is needed" and he regrets "the fun we didn't have."

He wanted to be remembered for having "fought as hard as I could," he told the B.A.R.

"I did my best." ▼

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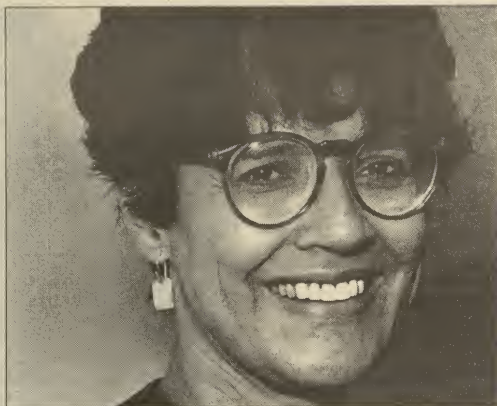
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NATIONAL NEWS



Patsy Fleming, national AIDS policy coordinator.

Washington Gays Respond to Youth and AIDS Report

by Bob Roehr

The White House office of AIDS Policy issued the report "Youth and HIV/AIDS: An American Agenda" Tuesday, March 5, in which it was revealed the HIV infection rate among youth in this country has almost reached two teenagers an hour.

President Clinton had requested the study when he appointed Patsy Fleming AIDS policy coordinator in late 1994. In her remarks Tuesday, Fleming urged AIDS educators to "stop treating adolescents like large children or small adults," and said it was time "to pay attention to the biological and behavioral factors of puberty that have a major impact on HIV transmission."

Community reaction to the report has been mixed.

Christine Lubinski, deputy executive director of the AIDS Action Council, called it "heartening to witness the Clinton administration's efforts to shine light on the tragic scope of the spread of HIV/AIDS among America's youth."

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republican, drew upon his two years of experience as director of adolescent health services for the state of Massachusetts when he said, "You have got to work with local communities and be respectful of them ... starting with the premise that they don't understand homosexuals, let alone bringing in the whole topic of kids."

He sees "the only thing missing is what we [gays and lesbians] are going to do as a community. We need to talk to our kids about individual responsibility ... and we need to define our community as more than just sex."

Jay Coburn, lobbyist with the AIDS Action Council, said he is encouraged by "the intensive involvement of young people in the formulation of this report," and thinks it "makes some sense" that the recommendations don't target specific groups because the demographics of the epidemic differ from geographic community to community.

"This report is neither a set of new recommendations nor a set of new ideas," read the opening lines of the executive summary. "It is intended as a catalyst of change in the way Americans view HIV and AIDS to the next generation."

Troy Petenbrink, spokesman for the National Association of People With AIDS, agreed with the report's self-assessment as not new, pointing out that a 1993 report by the National Commission on AIDS covered much of the same ground.

"They did good in terms of what they produced," he said, "but a report is just a report."

"What is their commitment to seeing the report is followed through?" he asked. "When they talk about open and honest education, then they turn around and fire Joycelyn Elders, you have to wonder how committed are they to open, honest education." ▼

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LA Activists Blast White House AIDS Report 'Fails To Provide Strategies for Dealing with Homophobia'

by Karen Ocamb

While the content of the March 5 White House report on HIV and teenagers shocked the country enough to earn a mention on the national news that night — [see accompanying story, previous page] — some AIDS activists were less than thrilled by its final recommendations. At a news conference sponsored by the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, AIDS activists and gay youth urged more targeted education, based upon the report's data.

"From the White House came a very historic and remarkable report, which for the first time in the federal agencies acknowledges the role of homophobia and prevention and care activities," the Gay & Lesbian Center's Darrel Cummings said. "So we're very pleased with the gist of the report."

"The unfortunate part is that the recommendations that came out of the White House fail to provide any concrete strategies for dealing with homophobia or with gay and lesbian youth. And the omission is striking, given the acknowledgment given throughout the rest of the report."

"It's our fear that government entities around the country will take a look at the recommendations and not see the words 'gay and lesbian' or 'bisexual' mentioned, and therefore will not develop programs that are suitable for that population, thereby escalating the epidemic. We are proposing that in fact an additional recommendation be included in that report that calls for inclusion of gay and bisexual men in all aspects of the planning



Pictured: City COO Mike Keeley, AIDS activist and City AIDS planner Mary Lucey, Mayor Richard Riordan, City AIDS Coordinator Ferd Eggan.

and implementation of programming, and calls on all efforts to address squarely homophobia in all the works.

"Hopefully that recommendation will be accepted."

'AIDS Doesn't Exist'

Earlier in the morning LA City AIDS Coordinator Ferd Eggan also spoke of youth AIDS issues, by referring to a forthcoming report from Children's Hospital of adolescents and HIV, which found 25 percent had exchanged sex for some kind of favor.

Eggon revealed the findings at Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan's first Working Breakfast on

AIDS, a forum designed to bring together mayors from cities around LA County to discuss the estimated \$3 billion impact AIDS is expected to have, and create an Inter-Governmental AIDS Policy Committee.

Of the 88 cities invited, only 40 sent representatives. Riordan called it "appalling" that one mayor allegedly refused to come because AIDS doesn't exist in her community.

"The fact that AIDS does not exist in her city is beside the point," said Riordan. "In this day and age, AIDS is a fact of life for all of us." The mayor of Calabasas, on the other hand, was

there because a neighbor had AIDS and committed suicide.

At the breakfast, which covered a wide range of topics, Riordan specifically suggested the other cities look into programs

such as Clean Needles Now, and applauded the Los Angeles Police Department for its action — "or maybe I should say inaction" — on the city's needle exchange response. ▼

San Jose School Board Hears Public On Domestic Partner Decision

by John Lindner

The San Jose Unified School District Governing Board heard public comments for almost an hour the evening of Thursday, March 7, relating to its decision last month to extend domestic partner benefits to unmarried employees.

The meeting was packed with opponents of the board decision. Most speakers against the benefits were affiliated in some way with a Santa Clara County ministerial association or one of its member churches.

South Hills Community Church Pastor Peter Wilkes summed up opponents' arguments by encouraging the board to meet with him or other members of the audience to hear their concerns on how domestic partnership benefits would threaten the "traditional" family.

Community activist Wiggy Sivertsen, a professor and psychotherapist at San Jose State University, countered Wilkes by calling on opponents to show as much respect for the dignity of gay and lesbian people and their relationships as they claimed to show for traditional heterosexual marriage.

One speaker opposed to the domestic partner policy reminded the board that ordinances prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Santa Clara

County sparked a successful referendum repealing those measures "14 years ago," but he stopped short of threatening similar action.

(Actually, the repeal campaign to which he referred happened 16 years ago. That 1980 campaign was one factor leading to the founding of the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community

Center in San Jose in early 1981. The DeFrank Center will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary next Saturday, March 24th.)

Since the domestic partnership benefits were not an action item on the school board agenda, no immediate consideration could be given to numerous requests to "revisit" the decision. ▼

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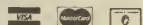
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KS Virus Unmasked at UCSF

Business Wire

The viral culprit suspected to be responsible for the disfiguring and potentially deadly tumors that affect many persons with AIDS is now in hand, scientists at the University of California San Francisco report.

The researchers discovered a herpes virus that is implicated in the development of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), an opportunistic disease that often afflicts individuals whose immune systems are weakened by AIDS. The discovery paves the way for the development of diagnostic tests to detect infection with the herpes virus.

The UCSF scientists are the first to successfully reproduce the virus in the laboratory and to photograph it. The researchers' success now will permit the testing of anti-viral drugs in infected cells. In addition, scientists now can study the virus's life cycle and its strengths and weaknesses. Such knowledge could lead to more precisely targeted anti-viral therapies to combat KS.

KS is a stigmatizing cancer in which blood vessel cells grow out of control, usually on the skin, where they form oval-shaped red-dish-purple lesions.

While the incidence of the disease among AIDS patients has declined in recent years, it remains very common, and physicians continue to see patients with potentially life-threatening cases of KS in which the tumors attack the lungs or the gastrointestinal tract. Drug treatment for KS has been less successful than treatments for other frequently occurring complications of AIDS.

The UCSF research group that collared the virus is headed by Don Ganem, M.D., professor of medicine and microbiology at UCSF and an investigator for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The UCSF/HIMI team grew the virus in cell cultures derived not from KS, but from a different, uncommon, AIDS-related lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system's B cells.

An article presenting the research appears in the March issue of *Nature Medicine*, along with mug shots of the viral suspect, greatly magnified through an electron microscope. The virus has been named KSHV, for Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpes virus, or human herpes virus eight, as it is the eighth herpes virus known to play a role in human illness. Common maladies caused by other herpes viruses include genital herpes, cold sores, and chicken pox.

"The circumstantial evidence implicating this herpes virus in Kaposi's sarcoma is strong," Ganem says. "During the past year it has become clear that genetic fingerprints of KSHV appear in KS tumors far more often than in normal tissue, and that they also occur at a higher rate in individuals with AIDS compared to those without AIDS."

"Furthermore, AIDS patients exhibiting genetic evidence of KSHV infection are more likely to later develop KS than those who appear uninfected by KSHV."



UCSF's Dr. Don Ganem: "The circumstantial evidence...is strong."

Co-authors on the study include Rolf Renne, Ph.D., Weidong Zhong, Ph.D., and Dean Kedes, M.D., Ph.D., all post-doctoral fellows; Brian Herndier, Ph.D., M.D., associate professor of pathology and Michael McGrath, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of laboratory medicine, who together established the cell lines in which the virus was grown; and Nancy Abbey, a research associate.

The discovery of KSHV comes more than a decade after the identification of the AIDS virus itself, HIV. But the apprehension of KSHV occurs just one year after the first incriminating genetic fingerprints of the previously unknown virus were discovered within the DNA of tumor cells from patients with KS. That finding was made by Yuan Chang and Patrick S. Moore, a wife-and-husband team from Columbia University who were driven to look for a disease agent in KS by the growing epidemiological indications pointing to infection.

Chang and Moore's discovery of viral DNA provided the first evidence of an infectious agent in KS and set off a scramble to track the virus down.

Like other herpes viruses, KSHV consists of DNA encoding more than 70 genes, all wrapped in a protective coat. The virus de-

livers its DNA into host cells, and can order the cellular machinery of its host to churn out the building blocks of new, self-assembling virus particles.

The development of tests to detect immune antibodies to the virus in blood, an indicator of infection, will assist in epidemiological studies to better define the role of the virus in KS and to determine whether the virus is transmitted sexually or through other means, Ganem says.

About 25 percent of gay men with AIDS are affected by Kaposi's sarcoma, while three percent or less of hemophiliacs with AIDS have the disease, Ganem says. A small fraction of organ transplant recipients, who take drugs to suppress the immune system, contract KS. KS also occurs among many African populations, with or without HIV, and among elderly men from the Mediterranean region.

Fifteen years ago, the appearance of KS, which had been nearly unknown in the US, was among the most striking findings observed by physicians in several fatally ill gay men on the West Coast. Its presence contributed to suspicions that a previously unidentified disease was afoot, one now known globally as AIDS. ▼

Violence

Continued from page 1

and the harm being inflicted on victims is intensifying," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the Anti-Violence Project at the release of the report. "Moreover, we

are all convinced that 1996 will be the worst year ever."

Violence against gays and lesbians tends to increase with more publicity or political attention to gay/lesbian issues. For example, violence in New York increased in 1994, when there was focus on the Gay Games and the 25th anniversary

celebration of the Stonewall riots. The amount of anti-gay/lesbian violence peaked in 1992, a presidential election year, and has decreased since then - except in New York, where it has remained relatively flat, the report said. Each year the ferocity of attacks has reportedly escalated. ▼

LENNY BLOOM

**A pioneer in the AIDS movement
and a gay rights activist since the 1970's,
is now heading up the oldest viatical
settlement company in America. Why?**



“At first, I had some skepticism about the viatical settlement industry, but once I saw some of my own friends sell their life insurance policies, stop worrying about money and get control over their lives, it became clear that viatical settlements are all about living and getting on with life.”

“As an openly gay man living in New York City in the 70's and 80's, I experienced the exhilaration of gay liberation after Stonewall, and then despair as the AIDS epidemic cut down so many wonderful people in the prime of their lives. My lover Gary and I lost most of our close friends.

“Before the AIDS crisis struck, as a young attorney I provided free legal services to gay rights activists, and in 1977 became a Board member of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the nation's leading legal advocate for gay men and lesbians. Then, in the earliest years of the AIDS epidemic, I volunteered at the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and from 1984 to 1990 served as a member of GMHC's Board, fighting to get the government to recognize the crisis, provide money for AIDS research and care for the sick. I also co-founded and chaired the AIDS Action Council in Washington, D.C., the largest national effort to champion the needs of people with HIV and AIDS. Later, I served as Executive Director of AIDS Project Los Angeles, where I helped raise millions of dollars to assist people living with HIV/AIDS.

“Now, I am proud to have become Chairman and CEO of American Life Resources. At first, I had some skepticism about the viatical settlement industry, but once I saw some of my own friends sell their life insurance policies, stop worrying about money and get greater control over their lives, it became clear that viatical settlements are all about living and getting on with life. Cashing in on their life insurance made it possible for them to afford quality health care, pay their bills and live a more relaxed and less stressful lifestyle.

“As head of the nation's oldest viatical settlement company, I will press for regulation of this industry by state insurance departments to educate and protect consumers, and safeguard their confidentiality. I'll also be actively involved in assuring aggressive monitoring by the industry itself. My goal is that those companies which play by the rules and serve their clients' interests succeed, while those that cut corners disappear.

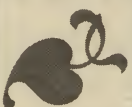
“I want people with HIV and AIDS – the people of my community – to live longer, with a sustained quality of life. You have my assurance that if you deal with American Life Resources, we will always put your interests first. Indeed, we encourage everyone who calls us to consult an independent financial counselor or attorney so they understand all their options. And because our staff is trained by professionals who work with local AIDS organizations, when you call us you'll be talking to someone who understands the complex issues facing people with HIV/AIDS.”

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write the person's name
on the inside of the envelope flap.
All obituaries must include a
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Deadline for all obituaries
is Monday at 5 p.m.

Joseph De Rugeris

January 23, 1996

Joseph De Rugeris, an opera con-
ductor and administrator, died January
23 at St. Vincent's
Hospital in Man-
hattan. He was 48
and lived in San
Francisco. The
cause was AIDS,
according to friend
William Purves.

Mr. De
Rugeris, who was
a native of
Philadelphia and a
graduate of Col-
umbia University,
performed many
administrative roles in the course of his
career at opera houses in Baltimore,
Chicago, San Antonio, San Francisco
and San Diego. In 1971-72, he was ex-
ecutive assistant to the composer Gian
Carlo Menotti.

He also conducted operas in the
United States and abroad, including
productions at the Washington Opera
and at the Festival of Two Worlds in
Spoleto, Italy.

A memorial service will be held on
Sunday, March 24, at 5 p.m. at Mission
Dolores (Old Mission, 16th St. at Do-
lores). All are invited. ▽

Charles E. ("Chuck") Smith

Sept. 10, 1950 - Feb. 28, 1996

Chuck, 45, passed away on Febru-
ary 28 at Eisenhower Hospital in Ran-
cho Mirage, Calif., due to complica-
tions from AIDS.

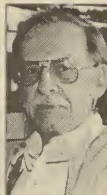
Chuck was born in De Kalb, Ill. He
and his family moved to Prescott, Ariz.,
in 1959. He is survived by his loving
mother, Florence Smith of Prescott,
Ariz., and brothers, Johnny, David and
Mark. He is also survived by seven
nephews and four nieces. He was pre-
ceded in death by his father, John
Smith.

Chuck spent several years living
and working in San Francisco and
Sacramento before moving to Cathedral
City, Calif., in 1994. He was a loving,
caring, giving person to all who knew
him. At his request no services will be
held. Chuck will be sadly missed but
fondly remembered by all his many
friends and family. ▽

Earl B. Ewing

April 6, 1930 - March 5, 1996

Earl Ewing, originally from Ohio,
died March 5 due to complications from
cancer. His lover,
Yo, was at his side.



Earl graduated
from Ohio Univer-
sity with a B.S. in
commerce. He
also served as a
first lieutenant in
the U.S. Army.

Earl will be
remembered for
his generosity to
all who knew him.
He always enjoyed
having friends

around him. We will all miss his witty
and informed conversations. Earl and
Yo's wonderful parties will be special
memories. His adventurous life includ-
ed many close and dear friends. Earl's
success and happiness were due to his
choice to live life in his own way.

A memorial will be held at his
home. His last wishes included having a
special party on the San Francisco Bay
to honor this unforgettable gentleman.
Memorial donations should be sent to
the American Cancer Society at
800/227-2345 or the SF AIDS Founda-
tion, 10 United Nations Plaza, SF, CA
94102.

From Gary

All is well.

From Yo (in Thai)

Earl, yu nai jai Yo shumerun (Earl,
you will forever be in my heart). ▽

Robert M. Killian

Sept. 13, 1923 - Dec. 25, 1995

Bob, a.k.a. "Lesbian Robert,"
passed away of heart failure on Christ-
mas morning in
California Pacific
Hospital after an
extended stay.

During Bob's
30-year career in
the U.S. Air Force,
he received num-
erous awards of
excellence, includ-
ing the meritorious
service medal and
the Bronze Star.

After retiring,
Bob became

somewhat of a permanent fixture at his
favorite Castro bars, the Nothing Spe-
cial and the Men's Room. Any old-
timers at these places will remember
"Lesbian Robert" as a "wonderful, sar-
castic, crusty ole fart," as one of his best
friends described him. He always had a
screwdriver or a warm Heineken in
hand and made sure everyone else did,
too!

In recent years Bob was secretly
very generous to friends and AIDS or-
ganizations. He retained his hilarious
"dirty old man" sense of humor right up
till the end. He will be missed by his
good friends, Bernie, Clint, Eddie and
Porter (Jay).

Everyone who knew Bob is invited
to celebrate his life on Saturday, March
30, 2-6 p.m., at 4076 17th St., No. 201.
Donations to AIDS organizations in lieu
of flowers are encouraged. Call Jay at

Mark Anthony Coletti

March 9, 1957 - Jan. 25, 1996

Mark was raised in the Philadelphia
area and graduated from the University
of Delaware in
1979. He relocated
to San Francisco
in 1983, where he
enjoyed traveling,
dancing, cham-
pagne brunches,
volunteering for
Shanti and the
company of his
friends. In 1993,
Mark relocated to
Southern Califor-
nia to be nearer his
family.

In his last years, Mark was graced
with a lively faith, positive attitude, and
much love and support from his family.
He is survived by his companion, Mike,
and family in California and on the East
Coast.

A memorial Mass was offered on
February 3 in suburban Philadelphia,
where Mark's ashes were laid to rest.
Bay Area friends are invited to an after-
noon of remembrance on Saturday,
March 30. Please call 415/979-2794 for
details. ▽

Bruce Francis Navarro

May 31, 1958 - Feb. 22, 1996

Bruce passed away in the midnight
hour with his partner Joe by his side,
ending a long and
courageous battle
with AIDS.

Bruce was an
artist whose pas-
sion was fueled
from a variety of
influences: Ed-
ward Hopper,
Trent Reznor,
David Bowie,
Moby, William
Gibson and James
Dean.

He is survived by his San Francisco
family: his partner, Joe Fera, and best
friends, Christopher Esposito, Dennis
Spivack and Russ Walton. He is also
survived by his New Jersey family: his
parents, Mary and Charlie; brothers,
Toby and Stephen; sister, Michele; and
numerous relatives and friends through-
out the country.

A memorial will be held at 179
Douglass, No. 4, on Saturday, March
23, 3-5 p.m. RSVP: 415/626-8545. Do-
nations may be made to either the San
Francisco AIDS Foundation or the
Gay/Lesbian Center of the New Main
Library.

Bruce was down in it. Now he's up
above it. ▽

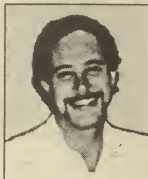
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Son...

DAN RIFFIN

March 9, 1958 - February 14, 1995



Dan was devoted to AIDS education and aggressive care,
advocating Gancyclovir Implants as Dr. Senechek provided Dan
through the study-- and now approved!

Dan urged patient participation, seeking new therapy and
education through his doctor's presentations.

Dan's mate, Peter Regnart, is now an AIDS educator in Palm
Springs, Jo Sanders, Dan's "Soul Mate" devotes much of her
time to the Marin AIDS Interfaith Network, advancing love and
tolerance through Pastor Judith Stone, Dan's spiritual guide at
the United Methodist Church, San Rafael and the Rev. Dr.
Janie Spahr who always inspired Dan.

My deepest gratitude to Dr. David Senechek for providing
Dan with 5 years beyond predictions and the joy of being the
grand marshall of Marin's 1993 Gay & Lesbian Freedom
Parade, for the years of teaching at San Jose State, Marin
College, speaking with Miss America, active with Marin AIDS
Project, appearing on CNN, AIDS and nutrition, teaching AIDS
education to 7th & 8th grades.

Dr. David Senechek offers presentations to the community
and I offer Dan's education material.

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Dan's Mom (415) 574-3768

OBITUARIES

William Lee White

Dec. 23, 1967 - March 4, 1996

To slightly paraphrase one of the last things Billy said, "I'm so glad you were here with us." Flights of angels sing thee to blessed rest, dear sweet friend. You were, and are, so loved. Your journey with us was far too short.



Grateful thanks are due everyone who made his last months comfortable and secure at Davies Medical Center and Bartlett House - also to the greatly appreciated few who came to see him during that time.

A service will be held for Billy on the first day of spring, Wednesday, March 20, in the Chapel of the Nativity,

Ralph Poplosky

February 18, 1996

Ralph Poplosky, 47, transitioned on February 18, with his friends and family at his side, in Walnut Creek at the home of Daniel Archuleta and Jeff Meagher. Ralph's illness was AIDS.

Ralph moved to Walnut Creek in 1991 from Florida. He was a real estate appraiser. As a volunteer for the AIDS Project of Contra Costa, he connected with a number of people who will always remember him as a special human being and wonderful friend. He was also involved with a number of alternative healing groups like the Healing Circle, California Men's Gathering, Glide Memorial Church or any number of workshops designed to open the heart.

Ralph is survived by his cousin, Tony Segro; Tony's wife, Laurel; father, Joe; cousin, Paul; cousins, Linda and Steve; aunt and uncle, Tony and Stella; friend, Delores Scentovich; and many other dear friends and relatives. Ralph loved and was loved. He will be remembered as a peaceful man.

A special thanks to all of Ralph's caregivers: The Lighthouse for the Blind, AIDS Project of Contra Costa, Contra Costa County Social Services, and friends Daniel Archuleta and Jeff Meagher. Donations to the AIDS Project of Contra Costa or The Lighthouse for the Blind/SF. ▼

David Heck

Jan. 27, 1959 - Oct. 28, 1995

David passed away in the company of loved ones at home in Vallejo on October 28. A native of New York state,



he spent time in the U.S. Army and received his B.S. from Rochester Institute of Technology before settling in San Francisco in 1989. An employee of the insurance industry, he fell in love with the city, its people and beauty.

David grew up on a farm with five brothers and sisters, and never lost his down-to-earth quiet courage. It may have been this which enabled him to endure his various illnesses without complaint. He will be missed for his warm, unselfish style, which made you glad to call him friend. As David could see, he would not fulfill all his dreams. He hoped his friends wouldn't mourn too long, but pursue their own dreams and enjoy life.

He is survived by his parents, Lucille and Melvin Heck; five brothers and sisters; and his companion, Richard. Special thanks to Dr. Pawlik and the staffs of Kaisers SF and Vallejo for easing the journey. A simple remembrance is planned for March. For information call 707/552-3008. ▼

Charles J. Fiebig

January 27, 1996

Charles J. Fiebig left us on January 27 after a short illness. He is survived by numerous cousins in Hawaii and on the mainland, and by his loving, devoted life partner, Joseph Elias. He will be missed by his many friends in San Francisco.

Charles requested that no services be held, but there will be a private scattering of his ashes off Diamond Head in Hawaii. Donations to the charity of your choice. ▼

Henri I. Leleu

1907 - 1996

Henri I. Leleu passed away on February 27, 1996, following complications after surgery for a concussion due to a tragic fall. Emergency efforts were performed at the Veteran's Hospital at Fort Miley in San Francisco.



Known for being a rascal and reveling in the fact that he was the oldest member of the Alexander Hamilton Post 448, Henri endeared himself to many. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy, and was present during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, serving as an official Navy photographer.

When he settled in SF, he invested in real estate and was associated with several gay bars. Henri organized the forerunner of the first "Gay Day Parade," which took place on Folsom St. in 1970. It was the first such organized public display of gay pride for individuals and sponsored groups.

Henri is survived by his longtime companion, Dale Harned, and by many who enjoyed his campy sense of humor. A citation was presented to him for his many, many hours of volunteer work and substantial monetary contributions to the Fort Miley Hospital. He also served on the board of Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights and was a past member of the Tavern Guild. ▼

Thomas (Patrick) Simpson

March 10, 1996

Thomas (Patrick) Simpson passed on at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, at UCMC.

Memorial service arrangements are still pending. For information, call 415/431-2927.

Patrick is survived by his family and many friends. He was a man who touched many, many hearts. He will be deeply missed by all who benefited from his compassionate soul. ▼

Rick Neill

April 6, 1966 - March 5, 1996

Rick Neill died on the morning of March 5 after a short bout of pneumococcal pneumonia. He is survived by his loving mother, Nelda; brothers, Bill and Mike, whom he adored; and friends too numerous to list.

Rick was an inspiration in many ways, whether he was doing work with ACT UP, Queer Nation or various AIDS organizations. He was a long-term survivor of the AIDS epidemic and a vigilant fighter against the disease. Co-founder of ACT UP/Sacramento, he would want his friends and fellow activists to hold steadfast in the fight against AIDS.

Rick died so suddenly no one had a chance to say goodbye, but fortunately, he did not suffer long. Rick, the best tribute I can think of for you is to always be proud of who I am and to continue ACTing UP as long as greed and government apathy continue to spread the AIDS epidemic.

Rick's mother has arranged a celebration of his life. It will be held on Sunday, March 17, at 3 p.m. at MCC on Mather AFB in the Sanctuary Room of Chapel 1 in Sacramento. The address is 10500 Grasshopper Ave. ▼

Labor's Pat Jackson Dies

Pioneer San Francisco labor activist Pat Jackson, a longtime friend of the gay community, died Wednesday, March 6 at the age of 58. Jackson, who was recuperating from a stroke, suffered a medication reaction and died of a massive brain hemorrhage following a fall.

Jackson was a key leader in organizing trade union opposition to the anti-gay 1978 Briggs Initiative, which attempted to ban lesbian and gay teachers in California.

Following the 1978 assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, Jackson met with then-mayor Dianne Feinstein and was a strong advocate for the appointment of Harry Britt to replace Milk.

"Her support for the lesbian and gay community was very strong," said labor union organizer Howard Wallace of Local 250.

Jackson also provided political opportunities and encouragement to a generation of gay leaders, ranging from the late Bill Krause and Harry Britt to political consultant and campaign manager Dick Pabich.

Jackson began her community activism in the 1950s while organizing a co-op nursery school in the Ocean View District, and continued through her active organizing for the first San Francisco local of the American Federation of Teachers.

Jackson also planned and implemented the merger of San Francisco and East Bay Unions to form Service Employees International Union Local 790, one of the largest Bay Area labor unions.

Jackson is survived by her daughters Suzanne and Clare, and her granddaughter Jackson Goethius.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. at Mission Dolores in San Francisco. ▼

—Dennis Conkin

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415/648-8895 or 800-330-5202.

When: 7-8:30 pm, Thursday, March 28, 1996

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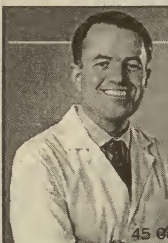


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HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

The Long and the Short of AIDS Progression

by **Stephen LeBlanc**
**ACT UP/Golden Gate
 Writers Pool**

Recently, a fair amount of research has examined one of the more perplexing facts of HIV: some people infected with HIV will become very sick with AIDS within just a few years of infection, while other people living with HIV will live for 15 to 20 years, or even longer, with few symptoms of HIV disease, even with no antiretroviral treatment. While scientists strive to discover the causes of these differences, the HIV-infected and activist community must come to grips with the fact that one person's HIV experience may be very different from another's.

That the differences exist is hardly disputable. Various research suggests that about 10% of all people infected with HIV will develop AIDS within 2 to 3 years of infection (rapid progressors), about 70% of those infected with HIV will develop AIDS within about 7-11 years from initial infection (typical progressors), and the luckier ones, about 10 to 17%, may not develop AIDS for at least 20 years after infection (nonprogressors). And luck has everything to do with it. It is true that evidence is mounting that good medical care, effective use of antiretroviral therapy, and opportunistic infection prevention (especially for PCP and MAC) will lengthen the lives of those with progres-

sive HIV infection. However, this fundamental difference between rapid progressors and nonprogressors exists in the absence of any antiviral treatment and seems to be determined by the genetics of the person infected and the genetics of the virus strain to which they are exposed, and not to medical care, lifestyle issues, a positive mental attitude, or a belief in miracles.

Emerging answers to why this variation exists point in two directions: (1) some strains of HIV are more likely than others to produce rapid disease progression, and (2) some people's immune system is better able to control HIV, both upon initial infection and subsequently. With regards to the virus, differences in progression have been linked to the presence of certain alterations in the Nef and Rev genes of HIV and to other differences in HIV gene expression. With regards to an individual's immune system, differences in the specific genes that encode the shape and function of a number of different immune system molecules have been linked with different rates of HIV progression.

More than 50 genetic differences (particularly in the genes encoding an important class of immune system molecules known as MHC) that may influence the speed of AIDS progression have been identified to date. Some researchers have theorized that those whose immune systems initially recognize a part of the HIV virus that is less genetically variable will mount a more active immune response to the virus, and the part of the virus initially recognized may be entirely due to chance.

Elevated levels of CD8 cells have also been associated with long-term nonprogressors. Scientists have recently identified three chemicals that CD8s secrete, which may play a role in suppressing HIV. But no one yet knows why CD8 cell levels vary among those with HIV.

Load Value

Whatever the causes of rapid progression, a scientific consensus is emerging that viral load levels are a good, but not a perfect, predictor of whether an individual is a rapid progressor or a nonprogressor. According to one study reported at the antiviral conference in Washington D.C. this January, which examined frozen blood samples of AIDS patients back to 1984, a viral load of 300,000 copies per ml of blood or more is associated with an increased likelihood of progression to AIDS within 1 year, a viral load of more than 100,000 is associated with a likelihood of progression to AIDS in less than 3 years, a viral load of around 30,000 suggests

progression to AIDS within 1.9 to 8 years, and a viral load less than 10,000 suggests at least 2.8 to 19 years before progression to AIDS.

Naturally, lower viral load levels are associated with a longer time to AIDS, but it is not yet definitely known whether lowering viral load with anti-HIV drugs will extend AIDS-free time, although data collected to date indicates that it will.

While it is a blessing that many infected with the HIV virus will remain relatively healthy for 20 years or more, it also creates confusion for HIV doctors, AIDS drug researchers, and for the HIV-affected community. Anyone making treatment decisions based on the experience of others must remember that a large percentage of people with HIV would be expected to do well and not progress even with no anti-HIV treatment.

Among those living with HIV today, the percentage of nonprogressors may be even higher than the 10 to 19% suggested above, because as the epidemic continues many of those who were rapid progressors have died, and therefore the relative number of surviving nonprogressors has increased.

In communities long into the HIV epidemic, the number of those still alive who are nonprogressors may well reach a majority. Therefore, the experiences of your nonprogressing friends or of long-term nonprogressors who hold themselves out as experts on how to survive the disease may have little relevance to your own experience with HIV. Their survival is due much more to chance than to anything they did to remain healthy.

A Prudent Course

This is not to say that an HIV-infected person cannot today significantly lengthen expected survival with effective treatments. Newly available anti-HIV drugs and new combinations have shown a much greater ability to suppress viral loads than therapies available even a few months ago, although their impact on long-term survival has yet to be conclusively proven. HIV-infected individuals must each assess for themselves and with their doctors what treatment strategies make sense, given what seems to be happening with their disease progression. A prudent course would be to adopt treatments that have a proven ability to substantially reduce viral load and reverse HIV disease progression, and to look for confirmation of those effects in a patient's own viral load levels and overall health.

The difference between nonprogressors and rapid progressors also has created a split within the HIV-infected community, evident

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 Page 27

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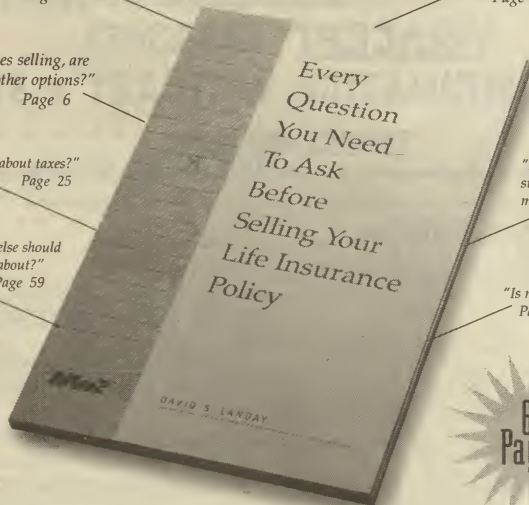
"Besides selling, are there other options?"
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ACTION UPDATE

In January 1996, Pharmacia & Upjohn announced an expanded access program for the new antiretroviral drug delavirdine. Delavirdine is a member of a class of drugs known as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), which have been shown to be very potent inhibitors of HIV, although resistance develops quickly when they are used alone.

To enter this program, patients should ask their physicians to call 1-800-779-0070. ACT UP/Golden Gate has become aware of some patients and physicians experiencing problems with this program. If you are having difficulty obtaining delavirdine from Pharmacia & Upjohn, please contact ACT UP/Golden Gate at (415)252-9200.

ACT UP/Golden Gate meets every Tuesday at 7:30 at 592 Castro Street. Everyone is welcome.

ACT UP/Golden Gate is not affiliated with ACT UP/San Francisco.

Little Problems

by Michael C. Botkin

Later I've been having trouble with chopsticks. Not that I was ever a great hand at them, like the patrons I see at Korean restaurants wrapping slices of beef and other goodies in lettuce leaves and hoisting them, with chopsticks, to their lips. But I could get the tempura from the plate to my mouth without trouble — until recently. Eventually, when I also had trouble buttoning buttons, I realized the source of my woe: peripheral neuropathy. The very tips of my fingers were just completely dead.

It's a pretty mild case of PN, which is why it took me so long to figure it out. It's not that great an inconvenience, once you know you've got it. Buttons take a little longer; you have to really watch your chopsticks, but as disabilities go, it's rather minor. It does, however, serve as a reminder to a no-T-cell PWA that even when things are going well, the disease is still with you.

Right now, things in general are going well for me. I finally started Human Growth Hormone and have gained 35 pounds in six weeks, going from 115 to 150. I'm the latest HGH "poster boy," since the transformation from a starved dead-meat special to a potbellied, smiling PWA is particularly noticeable. And the transition in lifestyle has been just as dramatic. At 115 I couldn't do much of anything; now I bicycle every day the weather permits.

But even with this transformation, I remain a PWA — one without any discernible T-cells. The little problems that continue to surface constantly remind me of that.

For example, part of my miraculous weight gain is probably due to my twice-daily infusion of Amikacin, a powerful antibiotic I take to control my MAC. I started it just a few days before HGH. Then a couple of weeks ago, I began having low-grade fevers, the symptom that started me on Amikacin in the first place. Finally, Nurse Ratchet (my Visiting Nurse and Hospice personnel) figured out the problem: Amikacin's dosage is based on body weight, and I had gained so much weight that my dose was now too small!

So we upped the dose, and it seems to be working, which is a relief. In the hard-fought battle against AIDS, every intervention has multiple effects. In this case, successfully raising my weight also made one of my meds inoperable. Even when you're riding high, you have to watch for these little things.

No sputum

Another little thing that worries me and my caregivers is my bloating. My stomach is so swollen that I have trouble getting some of my shirts to cover it. Usually I can pass this off as part of my weight gain, but the sharp-eyed can usually tell there's something funny going on. The trouble is we can't figure out what.

When a low T-cell HIVer has an unexplained problem, you try

that it's unrelated to the HGH, although it started just around the time I began to take HGH. Of course, I also started Amikacin about that time, so it could be that; although Amikacin and its side effects are much better known than HGH, so it's considered a far less likely source of trouble.

It's possible that the bloating, although a touch unsightly, isn't particularly threatening. I certainly haven't noticed any problems

from it, no pain or weird effects. Could it just be that I'm retaining water? And if so, why only at the stomach?

We don't know, and for now, we have no way of knowing. It's just another one of those low T-cell symptoms that blossom and

flourish. Doctors and patients scratch their heads and try to guess, but often don't get very far.

Alas, it turns out that even in its second decade, we still don't know much about this disease. We can treat it — not very well. We can diagnose it — with a few little odd-ball cases that defy the system. We can admire those "long-term non-progressors" — but without knowing how to imitate their success.

All we can do is keep on trying. I'm sitting pretty at 150 pounds, so I can keep my calm. But I still worry some about those little things that can grow into big things overnight. ▼

"It's just another one of those low T-cell symptoms that blossom and flourish. Doctors and patients scratch their heads and try to guess, but often don't get very far."

very hard to find out what's causing it, because there's so little margin of safety. A couple of days go by and — pfui! — you're dead. So any unexplained threat is thoroughly investigated. My doctor set out to find out what was causing my bloating; he ordered a chest X-ray, sputum samples, blood work and a sonogram — this last an exploration of my torso to find out if the swelling was caused by loose fluid.

Well, the sonogram looked fine; no loose fluid, and my organs, such as the liver and spleen, were normal-sized. The X-ray also failed to show any signs or symptoms, although it did confirm, if I needed it, that the guy who bashed me last year did indeed fracture a rib. The blood work isn't in yet (and some of it won't be in for weeks), and the sputum sample just didn't happen.

My failure to sputum surprised me. I sat breathing the mix of salinated air for over half an hour but didn't come up with so much as a thimbleful of anything. Ordinarily, I sputum pretty continuously all day long. I wanted to suggest a tactic that always works for me: smoking a little dope. Although I enjoy the weed, it does inevitably make me cough up some sputum.

But there were problems with this. My doctor knows I smoke dope, but I was pretty sure that the respiratory folks didn't. Even if they were willing to let me take a couple of hits, the hospital is a no-smoking institution, which bans lighting and smoking anything.

Finally, I asked if I could take the sample jar home with me. When I was told no, that it had to be filled on the premises, I just decided to do without the sputum sample, at least for now.

Sitting pretty

So we still don't know what's causing the bloating. It's possible

for some people is not a sentence to near-term sickness and death, the growing numbers of the healthy HIV-positive and the attention placed on them threatens to overshadow the plight of those who are, all too rapidly and through no fault of their own, dying from AIDS rather than living with it. It also threatens to mislead some HIV-positive people who are not non-progressors to delay taking action against the disease. Those in the HIV-affected community must not let the emphasis on the positive-but-healthy dampen the urgency we should all feel in the need for access to proven treatments that will delay sickness and death for everyone infected with HIV. ▼

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Presented by

Marcus A. Conant, MD

Monday, March 18, 1996

6:30 p.m.

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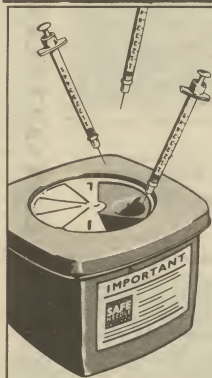
Continued from page 28

in the last several years by the growing emphasis in the media on the HIV-positive "lifestyle." One magazine directed at the HIV-affected community recently justified its policy of largely ignoring the sick and focusing instead on the positive-but-healthy by pointing out that many people with HIV will live a relatively long time and remain healthy, which is of course true. Some with HIV have taken to styling themselves as PLWAs (People Living With AIDS) rather than PWAs. While it is important to get the message out that a positive HIV test result



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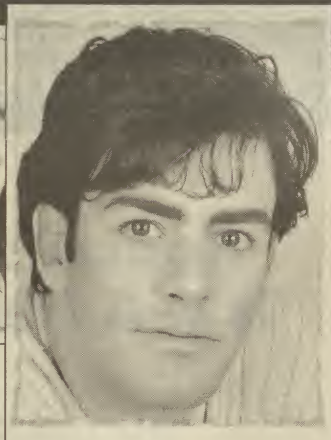
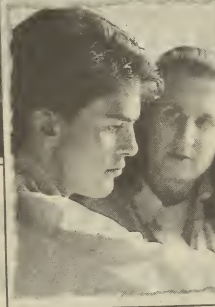
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SF Drags Terrorized by Mexican Police

by Dennis Conkin

Four gay men from the Bay Area who went to Baja California in Mexico as tourists last month got a first-hand taste of anti-gay extortion, terror, and psychological torture at the hands of the local police, when three of the four went out for dinner in the small town in drag.

"I was frightened for my life," said Tim Spence, one of the three who dressed in drag for the night out in San Jose Del Cabo. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* the troubles began shortly after the group took a taxi into the small town.

"We got into town and had dinner. We were getting massive amounts of attention," Spence said. "People were coming up to us and stuff. It was not anything you wouldn't expect."

Spence said the party of four wasn't offended by the reaction to their outrageous drag. "There were some catcalls and joking, et cetera," he said. "But people generally seemed to be pretty friendly."

Waiters in the restaurant also took the drag adventure in stride, laughing and joking with the men, Spence said. "By that time I thought, 'Oh well, this is fun, things will be okay.'"

After spending some time in a nightclub, the gay men decided to leave for the town square, to catch a taxi back to their accommodations, about 11:30 p.m.

"By that time most of the



Photo: Rick Gerhart

"Las Tres Reinas" relive their night of terror in Baja California. Jordan L'Moore, Timmy Spence and Stefan Grygelko (l to r) spent the night in and out of jail as best boy Mark Randall (right) kept vigil outside.

tourists were gone, and there were very few people around. We stood waiting for a taxi, and that's when the police car showed up," Spence said.

The police ordered the men to get in, he said.

"We were pretty scared. They didn't force us into the car but they made it obvious that if we didn't get in, they would put us in. We got in the back."

"I asked, 'Why are you picking us up?' and one of the men in the front turned around," he recalled. Spence said the officer pointed at the men in drag and said, "You're gay, you're gay, you're gay."

"At that point, I didn't know what to say. They were pretty frightening. We were at the police station in two or three minutes."

Semi-automatic

At the station, the men were placed into a holding cell, while the officers waited for their "commandante."

Spence said it was made clear the officials wanted money - \$200 for each of the men - but he said the shakedown turned into terrorism when the commandante showed up with a semi-automatic weapon that he menacingly snapped open and shut.

"We were pretty scared. I was frightened for my life at that point and began asking more questions, but they told me to shut up," he said.

After the friend who wasn't in drag, and wasn't arrested, returned with pesos from the local automated teller to give the officials, the commandante disappeared and the men were let out of their cells.

"They said we could go, and we hightailed it across the street and went to look for a taxi," Spence said.

There wasn't one, so the terrorized and exhausted men started walking to the beach to get off the street.

"I had my wig in my hand and was wearing heels," he said.

The group got halfway to the beach when two carloads of police showed up - and took them back into custody. Then, one at a time, the men were taken into a cell ringed by officers.

"It was a brightly lit room," Spence said, "and they made us strip. They said they had found marijuana in the holding cell. It was a total lie - no one had marijuana, of course. We were terrified and thought they were going to take us to prison."

Looked Like the Devil

At one point, he said, while he

was waiting to be taken into the cell from the police car, one of the police officers began a frightening game designed strictly for terror.

"One cop really got on my nerves while I sat in the car. He didn't say anything, but kept forcing me to look at him and would not let me turn away," Spence said. Whenever I looked away he would begin banging on the roof of the car until I looked at him again. His growl was really frightening. He'd lick his lips and show his teeth - he looked like the devil."

Spence said that he was in "absolute terror" about what would happen when the officers discovered he has KS - but was not forced to pull his pantsuit down to the part of his legs that are covered with lesions.

After coughing up an additional 700 pesos, the group was driven by police to the house where they were staying - to provide even more cash.

An additional demand for money was made, to be delivered a day later, but two of the men left town to catch a plane home immediately. After Spence and his remaining friend discovered police had returned to the house twice, they also decided to flee. They got a ride to a resort in the area where they hid out and changed their plane reservations, and eventually made it to the Los Cabos Airport and safety.

Spence told the *Bay Area Reporter* that after the group returned to California, he received frantic calls from the owner of the house where he stayed, saying the police had started terrorizing the entire neighborhood because the men had fled without paying up.

Spence said that although he'd "heard stuff" about Mexico, he didn't really understand the extent of the danger.

"I'd say I'm a little bit of a dizzy queen, but I never thought anything like this would ever happen," he said. "I'd heard stuff about Mexico, but I never thought anything like this would happen."

It happens frequently, said International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission Director Tom Di Maria - and the decision to go in drag was really "a terrible risk in a country where the cultural norms and values are different," he said.

"You can't take San Francisco culture or values into a homophobic environment and not expect some kind of response," Di Maria said. "Travelers have to understand there are very real cultural differences." ▼

HEALTH & COMMUNITY

ACT UP Golden Gate: meets Tues., Thurs. nights, 7:30pm at 592 B Castro St. Info: 252-9200.

ACT UP SF: committed to ending the AIDS crisis thru direct action. 1388 Haight St., #218 94117. Info: 522-2907.

Acupuncture: The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-8603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA. More info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS Memorial Grove: Monthly workdays: wedding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 209 or 215.

AIDS Treatment Education Network provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 566-5683.

BAHAN (Bay Area HIV Advocacy Network) is a grassroots program of the SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alert, gov't lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. Info: Ryan Clary 864-5855 ext. 3032.

Baker Places provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

Bay Positives: Provides recreational

and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. On-going support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups for family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT xBOY.

Brothers Network Support Groups: HIV and Recovery, Mondays, 6:30pm, 973 Market, Suite 650. Call for schedule of other groups: 356-8140.

Buddhist AIDS Project provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Community United Against Violence begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers: reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Connections is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Davies Med. Center: Free classes for HIV+ people in needlepoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practice support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics: Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the East Bay. Info: 865-2933.

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm, GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/ x504.

Fight the Right March organizing for April 14 march, volunteers needed. Call the National Organization for Women, 436-9390.

Friends, a new group for gay and bisexual men, meets alternating Tuesdays, 7:30pm at Pride Center, 200 5th St., Santa Rosa. (707) 524-7373.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets first Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service seeks gay-sensitive law students as Law Clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation offers activities for players of all abilities, membership mtgs. monthly. Info: Donna at 282-2453 or e-mail dmckins@aol.

Gay Men's STD/VLD Clinic: Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit, a new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club is a social group for gay/bi men, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Health Support Services for PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-8pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV- men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV and African-American Gay/Bisexual Men support groups every Wed., 6:30-8pm. Brothers Network, 973 Market, Suite 650. 356-8140.

HIV Care offers the latest clinical trials from the AmFAR community-based trial network and private industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group: Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group: Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Testing: free, anonymous, counseling and education by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project, Fri., March 15, 10pm-12:30am, 933 Harrison.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

INVENTION sponsors support groups for HIV negative men Tues. evenings, 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Kaiser Permanente Hospice seeks volunteers to assist with patients with AIDS or cancer, 7-week training session begins in Jan. Info: 202-3173.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/ gay/ bisexual/ transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Linea de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV + women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers 23 and under to be listeners on the line. No experience necessary. Call Olga by April 1 at 703-6150.

The Mark Pope Career Counseling Center: a non-profit career counseling agency serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of the Bay Area. 760 Market St., Suite 962. 296-8024.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm, (510) 845-7273.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group: Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

MWM: a rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Tues. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-1586.

Mothers Organizing Mothers working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 522-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt seeks volunteers for archiving, data entry, community outreach, sewing, more. Call Mike Moreno at 882-5500.

National Association for Visually Handicapped helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

Positive Humanists and Friends Club: Focus on self-acceptance, promoting belief in long-term survival. Info: 642-3840.

Positive Living for Us: free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV+. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Positive Resource provides work referrals to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening or attend an employment opportunity orientation mtg call 928-1448.

Project HOPE offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Inform: HIV/AIDS treatment info hotline, 558-9051; journal, and educational Town Meetings. 800-822-7422.

Q Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Radical Women: Business mtg. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

re plen ish offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Send Health and Community Listings to: *Calendar Editor*, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202405

The following person(s) are doing business as SUPER BRIGHT LAUNDRY, 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102; SAMLEY KHAVANN, 340 Eddy St. #501, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 22, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SAMLEY KHAVANN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 22, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202414

The following person(s) are doing business as STAYNSYLE INTERNET ADVERTISING, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107; THEODORE WRIGHT, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 23, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed THEODORE WRIGHT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 23, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202599

The following person(s) are doing business as HOT TIN ROOF, LTD., 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122; HOT TIN ROOF, LTD. (CORPORATION/CA), 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 23, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed JOHN F. CARAVANTES/CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 23, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202862

The following person(s) are doing business as ASSOCIATED BUILDERS, 4026 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94124; John H. Chung, 371 Klamath Street, Brlsbane, CA, 94005. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 11, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John H. Chung. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 11, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202235

The following person(s) are doing business as STATEWIDE TOWING, 238 4th Ave. Suite 424, San Francisco, CA 94118-2468; Stephen P. Smith, 1448 Serra Dr., Pacific, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 15, 1979. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Stephen P. Smith. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 14, 1996.

Feb 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202250

The following person(s) are doing business as NEW ORLEANS BIENNET, 2365 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116; Leva Vinitsky, 2365 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Leva Vinitsky. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 15, 1996.

Feb 22, 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202819

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LAST DRAGON, 72 Mirabel Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110; Jack Lewis Care, 72 Mirabel Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jack L. Care. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202690

The following person(s) are doing business as THE GANGWAY, 841 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; Waltraud Ziegler, 350 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Waltraud Ziegler. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 05, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202758

The following person(s) are doing business as ABE'S CAFE, 553 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117; Ibrahim Hadeed, 448 Goettingen St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 06, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ibrahim Hadeed. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 06, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202838

The following person(s) are doing business as MUSICA LATINA-AMERICAN MUSIC-MISSION MUSIC CENTER, 2653 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110; Ernesto Revena Gonzalez, 1541 Edgeworth Ave., Colma, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ernesto R. Gonzalez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202830

The following person(s) are doing business as COUP D'ETAT, INC., 550 15th St., Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103; Coup D'Etat, Inc. (Delaware Corp), 550 15th St., Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 13, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Frederick Krueger, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202829

The following person(s) are doing business as WHITE SANDS MULTIMEDIA, 1817 California St., #203, San Francisco, CA 94109; Chris Athanas, 1817 California St., #203, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 8, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Chris A. Athanas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202659

The following person(s) are doing business as BUDGET TOURS & TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL, 4114 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Ernie A. Narosio, 4114 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ERNIE A. NAROSIO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 04, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202485

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO LOAN COMPANY, 675 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127; Christopher Dwayne Baker, 631 Pointe Pacific Drive #9, Daly City, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE BAKER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 27, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202330

The following person(s) are doing business as TRASH THERAPY, 3415 22nd St. #22, San Francisco, CA 94110; KEVIN C. DEMPSEY, 3415 22nd St. #22, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KEVIN C. DEMPSEY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 20, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976276

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTRY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name, the application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to PAIGE SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and decreed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 4th day of April, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said country, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 23rd day of February, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 0193045-00

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as SUPER BRIGHT LAUNDRY, at 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on February 02, 1996. Name and address of registrant: VALERY SOKOLOV, 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed: VALERY SOKOLOV. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date February 22, 1996 Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder, by Joanne Huynh.

Feb 29, 1996, Mar 07, 14, 21, 1996.

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The Closetmeisters

**Jeffrey Friedman
and Rob Epstein
on Lily, Hollywood,
and the Oscar
Nomination That Wasn't**

by Robert Julian

Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein are running late. They're doing back-to-back interviews in the SOMA offices of Telling Pictures before they head for the Berlin Film Festival, where *The Celluloid Closet* will be screened. For two Jewish guys, a trip to Germany is — by their own admission — a mixed blessing, but it's been that kind of week. The day before our meeting, the Oscar nominations were announced and *The Celluloid Closet* was conspicuously absent from the list of nominees for Best Documentary. In addition, Armistead Maupin, who wrote the narration for *Closet*, recently lambasted *Closet* narrator Lily Tomlin for her unwillingness to come out as a lesbian.

Friedman, followed by his clearly devoted dog, leads me into a small office where Rob Epstein awaits. Three tarnished Emmys rest on an end table next to the sofa. Friedman plops down next to the statuettes and apologizes for pulling out a sandwich and eating during our interview.

Robert Julian: Stepping back from your non-nomination for a moment, tell me how you feel about the recent criticism of the Academy's documentary nominating committee and their decisions in the last few years. For example, their refusal to nominate Roger

Continued on page 44

Cultural Crimes

**Prying Open the
Celluloid Closet**

by Robert Julian

It has taken almost 100 years for *The Celluloid Closet* to arrive. Although the book which forms the basis for Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's documentary was first released in 1981 (and revised in 1987), the story actually began around 1895. In that year, Thomas Edison produced an experimental sound film called *The Gay Brothers*, which showed two men dancing cheek-to-cheek, accompanied by a violinist. But the subsequent treatment of homosexuality on film evolved in a curious fashion, and it was not formally addressed in book form until the late Vito Russo took up his deconstructivist pen to limn an almost subliminal history. The new film version of Russo's book both surpasses and falls

Continued on page 46

Photo: Marc Geller



DANCE

**Bill T. Jones
returns
to San
Francisco**

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MEDIA

**OutWrite
conference
looks at
cyberqueerdom**

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THEATRE

**Chad Jones
reviews Tony
Kushner's
'Slavs!'**

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COMEDY

Delirious De Laria Hosts Comedy Show



Lea De Laria, one of America's best known lesbian comedians, will present an evening of outrageous, uncensored entertainment tonight, Thursday, March 14, at the Great American Music Hall. Long excluded from mainstream comedy venues (she performed only at gay clubs for 10 years), De Laria now has both male and female, gay and straight fans. Since moving to Los Angeles several years ago, De Laria has expanded her audience through roles on television shows like *Matlock*, *Friends*, *The John Larroquette Show* and others. Her onstage integrity and "we're all in this together" attitude have attracted coverage from *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *People* and the television news-magazine *20/20*. Tickets for the show (8 p.m.) are still available at the Great American Music Hall box office at 859 O'Farrell St., or by calling (510)-762-2277. ▼

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell and
Pithy Galore

As part of its coverage of *Celluloid Closet*, this week's Sunday New York Times featured a superb essay on current gay flicks by **Bruce Bawer**, author of the unsu-perb *A Place at the Table*, that underscores Hollywood's inability to reflect the variety and complexity of gay relationships onscreen. Bawer takes his hat off to European directors like **Marleen Gorris** (*Antonia's Line*) and **Josiane Balasko** (*French Twist*) for doing what American moviemakers seem incapable of doing—namely, creating multi-dimensional, uncartoonish queer characters in believable, human situations.

Bawer saves his venom for *The Birdcage*, the unfortunate *La Cage aux Folles* remake, and the forthcoming AIDS flick *It's My Party*. About *Birdcage* he writes: "If Val [the son who asks his gay parents to masquerade as straight] doesn't recognize how much he has wronged his parents (he never apologizes), it's because **Mr. Nichols** [director] and **Ms. May** [screenwriter] don't recognize it either. Their attitude seems to be: The poor kid had to grow up with gay parents; this is the least they can do for him." Furthermore, Bawer rightly questions the plausibility of healthy gay parents inviting into their home a character like Senator Keeley (**Gene Hackman**), a Pat Buchanan stand-in who's running for president on a rabidly homophobic platform.

Bawer upbraids *Party* director **Randal Kleiser** for making a film in which the two principal characters — they're lovers at film's beginning — never express an ounce of intimacy. "There's nothing here, in fact, to suggest that their relationship was ever anything but an arrangement based on sexual gratification and conspicuous consumption."



Rosa von P.

Rosa von Praunheim's latest film, *Neurosia*, is a Citizen Kane-like "docuautobiography" in which a tabloid journalist attempts to find the "real" Rosa after someone fulfills the fantasy of half of the filmmaking community and knocks him off. **David Rooney** of *Variety* found the pic, which traces the German filmmaker's life as an artist and activist, "shamelessly indulgent" but "consistently amusing." Rooney was most amused by the sequence that has gadabout B.A.R. correspondent **Brandon Judell** recreating his real-life role as "a former flame... who recalls Rosa's horrifying eating habits and his appalling practice of playing Bavarian folk tunes on his foreskin." (If that doesn't make you want to rush out and see *Neurosia*, nothing will.)

Our Mr. Judell was the toast of the Berlin Film Festival, and not only for his *Neurosia* cameo. He hobnobbed with the stars and got differing opinions on his mental capabilities from **Julia Roberts**



Eric Roberts and Gregory Harrison in *It's My Party*.

and her brother **Eric**. Julia, in Berlin plugging *Mary Reilly*, didn't appreciate Ms. Judell's asking why the film chose a servant's point of view of the **Dr. Jekyll** and **Mr. Hyde** story. It was, as BJ pointed out, "like shooting *Moby Dick* through the eyes of a salmon." (It's for insightful observations like these that we pay the darling top dollar.) Julia bristled politely and said she was sorry he missed the point. Next question, please.

Eric, on the other hand, thanked BJ for asking "the only intelligent question" at the press conference for *It's My Party*, in which Roberts plays a dying gay man. A spy of ours failed to relay the question, but did note that Roberts kept rubbing his arm on Judell's chair and looking at him flirtatiously. (Is his film that desperate for good publicity?)

Eric is supposedly straight, but after reading a little ditty by one **Ryan Landry** in *In Newsweekly*, a New England gay paper whose proofing and editing make this rag seem like *The New Yorker*, we're just not sure about anyone. Well, actually, this case doesn't seem too surprising. Seems Mr. Landry had an affair with "a famous movie star" who later "just writhed [to death] outside the Viper Room and no one would help him." (Discreet fellow, this Landry.)

We learn from Landry's piece that the "star" was shy, high and bi, and that his feet had an "odor reminiscent [sic] of the finest cheese houses throughout Europe.... My movie star's feet were as ripe as two delicately aged slabs of the purest Camembere [sic]." It appears Landry has a soul of purest poetry. *Après* sex, Mr. L hauled his friends **Lady Bunny** and **David Ilku** (of the Dueling Bankheads) over to his apt. to prove he'd gotten into the movie star's pants. If this rumor of moldy tootsies shatters your illusions about the dead star, call one of them for a second opinion — maybe Lady Landry's schnoz is too sensitive.

One of our NY operatives popped into a press screening last week for the New York Underground Film Festival, whose programmer, **Ed Halter**, formerly worked for the SF gay film fest. Filmmaker **Barbara Hammer** once told us that a work "isn't an

underground film unless 60 percent of the audience walks out." If that's the benchmark, the shorts the press saw were ultraunderground. The walkout rate was 80 percent, something even the opening night film, the ubiquitous *Frisk* (coming soon to the Roxie), will be hard-pressed to top.

Apparently "underground" no longer means toying with form — this was quite the conventional batch of films — but it still means sex: "We got four submissions in which people had sex with a vacuum cleaner," says Halter. "The one we chose was Terry Rice's *Electroluxury*." We later found out that Rice is a woman, which prompted a famous NY radio personality to say, "See, we women can do anything a man can." And better, if Mr. Halter is to be believed.

NEA Watch: At its February 13 meeting, the NEA Council rejected a grant application by Highways and the 18th Street Arts Complex in Santa Monica over an exhibit entitled *Black Bodyscapes* by black British photographer **Ajamu**, whose work is so in-your-face it's been banned by British authorities. Ajamu's work documents the black gay community there, and though explicitly erotic, the exhibit was nixed because of its too honest portrayal of England's most ignored community. The rejection by the NEA further jeopardizes Highways' other funding sources in the form of matching grants.

Queers are busting out all over on television these days, and we're not just talking about **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Lea De Laria**. Locally there's action with QTV, an independently produced show for homos, bis and transies that airs twice-monthly on Tuesday nights (7-8 p.m.) on cable Viacom channel 47. The show launched in February with features on **Jeff Getty**, **Lypsinka**, **Melinda Pengel** and an in-depth look at the AIDS Dance-a-Thon as a youth culture phenomenon. QTV's illustrious worker bees are experienced Bay Area broadcasters, writers, videographers, etc., which explains the above-average quality of the show. QTV hopes to go weekly soon. The next broadcast, which features part two of an interview with **Mayor Willie Brown**, a travel piece on gay London, and a piece on gay parenting, airs March 26. ▼



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THEATRE

Tony Kushner's *Slavs!*

**The Agony
and the Ecstasy**

by Chad Jones

The best way to describe Tony Kushner's *Slavs!*, which opened last week at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, is contained in the play's very own subtitle: *Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness*. *Slavs!* is not a character drama, though there are characters and there is drama, and it's not really a comedy, though there are numerous hearty laughs. With a running length of 80 minutes (no intermission), the show is a collection of thoughts about the seemingly hopeless plight of the common human, more specifically of downtrodden Russians, as well as the ineffectual political systems we develop from rousing theories and turn into deadening institutions.

Brisk and meaty, this Berkeley Rep production of *Slavs!*, under the taut, focused direction of Tony Taccone, harkens back several seasons to the American Conservatory Theatre production of Kushner's seven-and-a-half-hour epic *Angels in America*. Like that massive work, this mini-work is an entertainment/polemic directed at the audience, and like *Angels*, when it's over you're left to sift through dazzling bursts of language and expert stage-craft, political ideas, emotional truths and witty one-liners. But whereas *Angels* satisfied with its belly laughs, political insights, anger and human compassion, *Slavs!* gives audiences far less to take home. Not that it's less interesting or less entertaining than *Angels*, only that the play feels like it has barely begun when it's over. Composed of three acts, a prologue and an epilogue, *Slavs!* feels like the introduction to a really fascinating play.

Kushner's writing is as sharp as ever. The play begins on the steps outside the Kremlin in March, 1985, just as Mikhail Gorbachev is about to take over leadership of his country. The great Socialist experiment has failed and the old Soviet guard is reeling from Perestroika. In scenes originally written for and then removed from *Perestroika*, part two of *Angels*, men with names like Ippolite Ippolitovich Popolitipov and Yegor Tremens Rodent couch their fears of the future in complex philosophical discussions that ultimately lead — in the inimitable Kushner fashion — to some wonderful slapstick leaping about, several deaths, and a brush with God and ultimate answers.

Lesbians and frozen brains

What begins as ideological farce then shifts to a more personal drama as the scene changes to the great storehouse of dead Soviet brains. Katherina Serafima Gleb (Sheila Tousey), a lesbian guard, staves off the advances of the smitten Popolitipov (Ray Reinhardt), and welcomes the arrival of her lover, Dr. Bonifila Bedzhukhovna Bonch-Bruevich (Jeanne Paulsen in the most affecting performance of the evening). Much vodka is imbibed and Katherina manages, by inflaming Popolitipov's jealousy, to get her lover the doctor transferred to a hellish medical post in Siberia.

Five years later, Dr. Bonch-Bruevich is making a futile attempt from her isolated outpost to do something about the horrendous



Sheila Tousey and Jeanne Paulsen in *Slavs!*

dous mishandling of nuclear and toxic waste in Russia. A young girl in her care is a primary example of a "yellow baby," a genetically deformed child who grows up mute and autistic and will not live to see her tenth birthday. The genetic mutation is caused by exposure to ionizing radiation. Rodent, an insignificant government apparatchik, shows up to hear the complaints but, of course, is powerless to affect any change.

By the time the epilogue in heaven has come and gone, it feels like *Slavs!* is really going somewhere. The focus of the play has shifted from politics in the face of politics to love in the face of politics, to real human damage in the face of politics, to non-political musing on the dismal fate of humankind. That's a lot of territory to cover in just under an hour and a half.

The triumph of the Berkeley Rep production is that the play feels substantial. Thanks to director Taccone's sure hand and set de-

signer Kate Edmunds' effective turntable set, the brief scenes carry a solid weight and project a defiant energy in the face of doom. The shifts of tone and mood (lights by Ashley York Kennedy, sound by Stephen LeGrand) are distinct and effective: the rousing propaganda red of the Kremlin gives way to the eerie green-gray glow of the brain storehouse, and the squalid, decaying white of Siberia conveys a harsh, malignant gloom. Nevertheless, while this collection of thoughts sends its audience home intrigued, one can't help but feel a little frustrated; Kushner's deep thoughts on virtue and happiness don't weigh as heavily as the long-standing problem of a play that's just too short. More, please. ▽

Slavs! Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness continues at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre through April 19. Call (510) 845-4700 for information.

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The Sixth Annual AIDS Theater Festival, a showcase of works about HIV-related issues, performance art, music and dance by people from all over the country, gets underway March 19-22 at the San Francisco Civic Center. The works featured in the festival cover the artistic gamut, from prose and poetry readings, to plays and choreography. The list of contributing artists include such local notables as Joseph Leonardi, Jamie McHugh, Stephanie Johnson, the DramaDivas (above) and others.

Audience members are invited to join a panel of reviewers after each show to discuss the performers and meet the artists. For information, call the festival at 255-1297. ▽

THEATRE



Jossara Jinaro and Shawn Elliott in Eric Overmeyer's *Dark Rapture*.

Dark Rapture: Pleasurable Ride Over the Top Gangsta Rap

by Chad Jones

Somewhere between the goofy, gruesome world of Quentin Tarrantino and the literate, violent world of Elmore Leonard or Dashiell Hammett lies Eric Overmeyer's 1992 play *Dark Rapture*. Chosen by the American Conservatory Theater as the first contemporary play to grace the stage of the beautifully restored Geary Theater, *Dark Rapture* is nothing that hasn't been seen a zillion times in film noir and now in made-for-cable potboilers, but the big difference here is Overmeyer's grandly theatrical language.

The last A.C.T. play presented at the Geary, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, was full of grandly theatrical language, too, and it was a blustery, dismal failure. But *Dark Rapture*, as directed by Chicago import David Petrarca, makes up in style what it lacks in substance. If *Rapture*'s money-mongering, crime-crazy, game-playing characters don't have much going on in their psyches or their lives, at least Overmeyer puts street-elegant, gangster-glorious, righteously rhythmic words in their mouths.

Watching the Oakland Hills ablaze in the first few moments of the play, a mysterious man compares the inferno to the eruption of a volcano: "Big orange tongues of molten magma whatever creepin' down the hillside like some kinda hellacious glacier. Like some kinda red-hot tectonic taffy." That sets the tone for Overmeyer's rhapsody on the lives of these nefarious characters. In Petrarca's proficient, engagingly produced vision, this is a good, self-conscious, half-hearted cross between parody and overwrought drama.

With his wife off in Cabo San Lucas with her stunt man lover, and his house destroyed courtesy of the Oakland fire, Ray seizes a window of opportunity and starts his life with a clean slate. At least he thinks he can start clean, but he's trapped, as he should be, in a complex web of schemes and deals. Seems Ray was supposed to deposit \$5 million in his wife's account, but the money never made it to the bank. Julia, the wife, thinks the money burned with the house, which does not please her "partners." Lexington and Vegas,

two goombah types trying to get into the movie business.

The action zooms from Oakland to Seattle to Santa Barbara to Key West to St. Vincent's, and no one can trust anyone. Ray has started his life over again, but he keeps getting ensnared with beautiful women: Renee in Seattle and Max (short for Margaret) in Key West. And wouldn't you know, the gangsters keep showing up to try and retrieve their millions.

There's nothing new going on plot-wise here, but Overmeyer's script keeps the language lively and fun. As Lexington the gangster says, "Permutations! Fucking permutations are driving me bat shit!" Exactly. The plot doesn't really matter. The fun is in going along for the ride and letting director Petrarca, his varied and entertaining cast, and his skilled production team work through it all in high style.

Richard Snyder as Ray, the everyman seizing his chance for a fresh start, is an intriguing presence. He seems every bit the nebbish until he speaks. Then he becomes animated and intriguing—not average at all. Deirdre Lovejoy as Julia, the philandering, ballsy "widow" with too many overflowing pots on the stove, is smart and sexy. But the sexiest cast member award goes to Mark Feuerstein as both Danny, the shirtless stunt man, and Tony, the Armenian nationalist gangster. Umit Celebi as Nizam the Turkish used car salesman gives the evening's most bizarre performance, and Zachary Barton as Max, Ray's Florida girlfriend, gives some sass to a role that could too easily be a throwaway from the cast of *Designing Women*.

A.C.T.'s design team has done a slick job translating the noir feeling into distinct theatrical form. Adrienne Lobel's coolly stylized, linear sets convey shadow and light without any lights, and Peter Maradudin's actual lighting design often illuminates more than it conceals. Rob Milburn's sound design and original music provide a rhythmic thrust to the action and some welcome fanciful touches.

Less bloody than Tarrantino and more interesting than your average Hollywood crime fare, *Dark Rapture* entertains, though it does-

n't quite live up to its title. Call it more of a light whimsy. ▼

Dark Rapture continues at the Geary Theater through March 31. Call 749-2228 for information.

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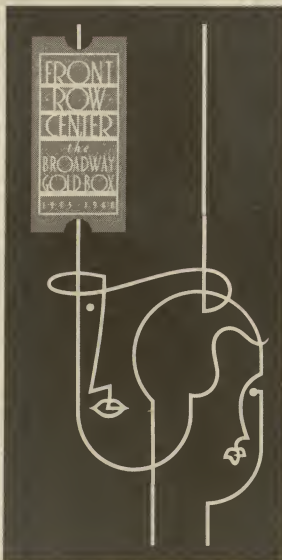
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Literary Confab

The Internet, Future of Queer Publishing Primary Topics at OutWrite '96

by Jess Wells

Nearly 1,500 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender authors descended on Boston late last month for OutWrite, the sixth national lesbian and gay writers' conference. This year's event explored issues germane to queer publishing, including the limitless possibilities (and financial nothingness) of cyberspace, and the untrustworthy inroads the electronic universe appears to be making into commercial (read: mainstream) publishing.

Jeff Escoffier, who founded OutWrite, ushered in the event by noting that in 1990 OutWrite deplored the recent passing of the Helms Amendment limiting the NEA's involvement with gay material. He pointed out that things have gotten worse. Michelle Karlsberg then prefaced the proceedings with the annual "calling of the names," in which the audience calls out the names of gay and lesbian authors who have recently died.



Edmund White

works while they read them. PlanetQ premiered with four workstations at OutWrite and can be found at [http:// PlanetQ.Com](http://PlanetQ.Com). PlanetQ is seeking submissions.

Class issues and the Internet

This year, a three-hour panel discussion on the "Future of Queer Publishing" was attended by nearly 250 people. Authors Jewelle Gomez and Sarah Schulman, agent Jed Mattes, and publishers Nancy Bereano, Michael Denny and Jeff Yarbrough battled over their visions. Schulman pointed out (again! is anyone listening?) the disparity in the financial rewards and resource distribution between men and women within the queer publishing world. Gay men continue to enjoy more avenues for publishing, and more money for like projects, said Schulman, than any amount of debate can justify (see sidebar). Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories* and several other superb volumes, argued that teachers must be encouraged to include gay literature in curricula. The next generation of readers must be educated now.

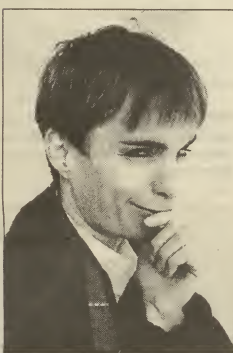
Agent Jed Mattes said he is witnessing a backlash on the part of the commercial press due to the six-figure advances given to some gay and lesbian authors. The gay and lesbian market tops out at ap-

proximately 35,000 copies, the panelists agreed, which is a minimum figure for the commercial press. A best-seller in the lesbian and gay community is a book which sells 10,000 copies, while the commercial presses peg a best-seller at 50,000 copies. Feminist, lesbian, gay and gay-friendly publishing houses tend to print approximately 3,500 to 8,000 copies of a book, and are happy with sales of 200 copies per month. These numbers mean that we must either widen the book-buying audience within the gay community, or be happy with the publishing landscape as it is.

While publishing opportunities on the Internet were explored in greater depth than in previous years, panelists also raised questions about its ability to save gay publishing. Gomez pointed out that electronic media is a class-bound phenomenon, one accessed only by white, privileged classes. Nancy Bereano of Firebrand Books reported that major newspapers are currently fighting with the National Writers' Union to deny royalties to writers who post on the Internet. At the same time, Alyson, an LA-based publishing company, announced it will feature promo materials and book previews on-line by 1997.

Among the literary breakthroughs mentioned at OutWrite '96 was a stunning new volume called *Gay by the Bay: A History of Queer Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area* (Chronicle Books), a collaborative effort of Jim Van Buskirk, director of the Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library, and Susan Stryker, Bay Area writer, activist and scholar. Beautifully designed, the book is a combination of historical documents and excellent photography. The library, which opens next month, was heralded from the podium as being the first in the world to boast a gay and lesbian research room.

While many have hoped that OutWrite would resume its former status as a bi-coastal event, next year's confab will once again be held in Boston, March 21-23, 1997. ▼



Holly Hughes

Playwright Holly Hughes introduced the first keynote speaker, Minnie Bruce Pratt, the award-winning poet whose work includes *Crimes Against Nature* and a new volume of prose stories on gender boundary crossing. Pratt's lyrical but overly long speech called on authors to recognize that in the '90s we are engaged in a "Culture War" against the Radical Right, whose intent is an assault on all art. Edmund White, award-winning author of four novels and several collections of essays, delivered the second keynote. He gave a cozy address filled with anecdotes of famous gay and lesbian writers while explaining that the AIDS epidemic has ruptured the transmission of information and culture from the old to the young.

OutWrite each year offers a plenary session, panel discussions, a dance, scheduled readings, workshops with limited enrollment, an area for displays by bookstores and publishers, and closing presentations. This year's panels covered such topics as writing women's smut, editing an anthology, reclaiming history, getting an editor's attention, writing off the Radical Right, competition among writers, writing humor, stealing writing time from your day job, intellectual property in cyberspace and censorship issues.

New to the scene was PlanetQ, an on-line website for lesbian and gay writing that includes features, essays, fiction and multimedia as well as a "comment segment" so readers can post critiques of the

The following is an excerpt from Sarah Schulman's "Lesbian Content: The Kiss of Death," written for OutWrite '96.

One thing that has substantially changed in the publishing world is that a writer can be openly lesbian, personally, and still be accepted as an American writer as long as she produces work with no primary lesbian content. Books where the protagonist is a lesbian in the first and last chapter? These books are not "well-written." Books with primary lesbian characters are diminished and demeaned because the prejudice and stigma against the characters results in a series of institutionalized lies. Namely that the books are "about homosexuality," are "political, not literary," and are all alike. This results in an institutionalized quota system in which books with primary lesbian characters are only compared to each other, only compete



Sarah Schulman

Continued on page 49

THEATRE

Lloyd Webber's *Music of the Night* Returns to San Francisco

The Music Man

by Chad Jones

Looking over his resumé, you'd never take director Scott Ellis for an Andrew Lloyd Webber kind of guy. After all, it was only last fall that he received accolades for directing the revival of Stephen Sondheim's wonderfully sophisticated and urbane musical *Company*. The preceding season he directed and received a Tony nomination for his work on a revival of *She Loves Me*, and in past seasons he has applied his special touch to the John Kander and Fred Ebb review *And the World Goes Round* and the New York City Opera production of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.

So why is this musical theater sophisticate lending his considerable directing talents to *Music of the Night*, the touring concert of Lloyd Webber songs that opens this week at the Golden Gate Theatre?

From his home in New York City, the 37-year-old, openly gay director tackled the Lloyd Webber musical theater snobs head-on. "Listen, art is art, and it's not the same for everybody. Andrew Lloyd Webber speaks to a mass of people, but that shouldn't take away from his talent. Not everyone loves him, just like not everyone loves Sondheim. Lloyd Webber just speaks to a broader group of people than Sondheim does. That doesn't mean he's less sophisticated."

"My parents won't run to see a Sondheim show," he says. "But they will run to see *Phantom*. Lloyd Webber gets people into theaters, and god bless him. If he pulls that many people in to experience theater, maybe next time they'll go see a Sondheim show. There has to be room for it all."

The lure of working with a well-financed production — always a draw with Lloyd Webber, the most commercially successful composer ever — was a strong one for Ellis. "I only said I'd direct this piece if we could find a very theatrical way of doing it," Ellis explains. "It's a concert staging with a 37-piece orchestra on stage, but I didn't want people just walking up to the mike. I wanted it to be interesting and fresh. When you come down to it, if you don't like Andrew Lloyd Webber, we're not going to change your mind. But I think people will be pleasantly surprised by this show."

Veteran Thespian

Raised in Fairfax, Virginia, Ellis says he can't remember a time when he didn't want to make theater his life's work. After graduating from the Goodman School of Theater in Chicago, Ellis moved to New York and found work in the original production of *Grease*. While working in Kander and Ebb's *The Rink*, with Chita Rivera and Liza Minnelli, he forged a friendship with the composers, which led to his directorial debut: a revival of their musical *Flora the Red Menace*. That friendship continued with the phenomenally successful Off-Broadway revue *And the World Goes Round*, and now the trio is collaborating on an all-new musical called *Steel Pier*, which explores the world of '30s dance halls.

The rigors of bringing a completely original musical into existence are mighty, especially in today's stony theatrical economy. *Steel Pier* has already taken up three years of the collaborators' lives and is only beginning its



Photo: Joan Marcus

No, it's not Scott Ellis on the right, that's Kevin Gray, shown here with Janet Metz in a number from the Ellis-directed *Music of the Night*.

workshop period. A Broadway production is a year, possibly more, away.

Ever the optimist, Ellis calls the process of creation thrilling. "It's wonderful and painful," he says. "And as my agent once said, people give birth more than once because you forget the pain of the other times. In the end, if it's a healthy baby, you're happy. When musical theater works, there's nothing better, and you know it works when it looks effortless. But believe me, it's not."

Ellis says he, like many gay men, was drawn to musicals as a child. "In a world where we were not accepted, musicals gave us a chance to escape," he says. "Musicals are big and passionate and sweep you away. As kids we all need to go there for a while. I certainly did. I played *My Fair Lady* until it broke."

Uncloseted workaholic

Being a publicly out theater artist had never been one of Ellis' goals until last fall and the production of *Company*, a show that follows the travails of a single man, Bobby, in his late 30s. Many fans of the musical insist that Bobby is a bachelor and has trouble with his girlfriends because he's gay. Ellis went on the record saying that he adamantly believes the show is not about sexuality but rather about fear of commitment. In short, Ellis says, Bobby is not gay. But in being so adamant, Ellis says he felt he had to validate his statement by affirming his own homosexuality.

"Being out is not a big thing in New York," Ellis maintains. "It's easy to live an open lifestyle here, but off this island, things are different. Still, the most important thing anyone can do is come out."

Happily out of the closet and at the top of the theatrical A-list, Ellis can claim dissatisfaction only with his social life, or lack of one. Back in therapy after a few years off, the single Ellis says he is being careful not to let his work completely take over his life. "Even though I love my work," Ellis says, "I have to keep reminding myself that work will never make me entirely happy."

As a director, Ellis says he has to fall in love — to varying degrees and in various ways — with everyone he casts in his shows. "There has to be a connection, but I don't mistake that for the real thing. When you are struggling with an actor to create a role, you have to achieve a certain level of intimacy. But then the show closes and you go on to your other lives. It is difficult to let go."

Ellis says he does not miss his

days on the stage and prefers to be behind the scenes now, but there is nothing he likes more than working with actors. "Exploring roles with actors has allowed me to explore old men, young men, women — you name it," Ellis effuses. "The actors get to have the thrill of connecting with an audience, and I miss that. But I still get a different thrill watching something I helped bring into the world." ▼

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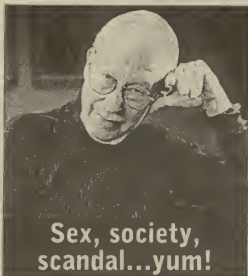
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INTERVIEW



"It wouldn't have been made without Lily. When it looked like the whole project was going to fall apart, she got us a meeting at HBO, and that's how HBO came on board."

Closet

Continued from cover

& Me, Crumb, and Hoop Dreams.

Friedman: ... *Thin Blue Line*, *Paris is Burning*. It seems like every year there's a really big popular audience-pleaser that doesn't get nominated.

Epstein: That's the good news. We're in good company, so we're hoping that's a really good omen for the movie.

In the past you've benefited from the actions of this nominating committee, which is pretty static in its composition. What's going on here? What's the mind-set of that committee?

Epstein: The mind-set is that they want to help films that they think need help, and they don't want to help films that they think will do fine on their own in the marketplace. Their inclination is to want to pick something that they're picking specially, rather than pick something that audiences and critics have already sanctioned as being popular or successful.

How do you feel about that?

Epstein: I feel they should have a new category called "non-fiction film." It should be for non-fiction films that are playing theatrically and are really structured as fic-

tion-narrative films — not have them in the same soup as TV documentaries. A lot of the films that tend to get nominated are very forgettable films. I don't want to denigrate all films that have been nominated, because I've been in there. But a lot of them are films that, really, you'll never hear of again.

When you were planning *The Celuloid Closet*, writing and assembling it for commercial release, what target audience did you have in mind?

Friedman: We knew the film would work for gay audiences. We certainly wanted it to work for gay audiences. But we wanted it to work for straight audiences also. We don't really think about the audience when we're making the film, we try to make a film that we think works on the terms we set out to make it. In this case, I think there were sections of the film where straight audiences really needed help. Particularly in the area of subtext, finding gay content in movies where, in some cases, it was intended and, in other cases, it may not have been intended. That was the hardest part for us, to construct it in such a way that it would work for straight audiences as well as gay audiences.

Do you mean so that the straight audience would get it?

Friedman: So that they would get it and they would accept it. There were rough cuts of the film at which straight people in the audience really objected to the way we used some of the clips — felt we were reading into it, appropriating images in a way that was not the intention of the filmmakers and the actors.

I found Mart Crowley's remarks very interesting, and I was glad to see him talk about *Boys in the Band*. William Friedkin, who directed that film, as well as *Cruising*, was conspicuously absent.

Did you try to interview him?

Friedman: First he said he was interested in being interviewed, but he had very specific conditions. Apparently during the making of *Cruising*, according to Friedkin, Vito Russo got onto the set for a day as a reporter and interviewed him, and used the interview in way that Friedkin considered an ambush. Which I'm sure is true. So, he wanted a written agreement from us that we wouldn't change the meaning of what he said by quoting him out of context. So we started drafting that and sending it back and forth, getting lawyers involved, because I thought he'd be a fascinating interview. In the course of the negotiation, he just backed out, giving scheduling conflicts as his reason.

Who did you want who turned you down cold?

Friedman: Al Pacino, Candice Bergen, Paul Newman, Lauren Bacall, Roddy McDowall.

Epstein: Cher didn't turn us down, but she stood us up on the day we were supposed to shoot. She just didn't show up.

What were your pre-interviews like and what criteria did you use to decide who would and who wouldn't appear on camera?

Epstein: Well, content — what they had to say — and whether it fit into the film we were trying to make. And we made a directorial assessment of whether or not we thought they were going to work on camera. With the stars, we got more than we expected. We didn't have an opportunity to talk to them beforehand. We just met them the day that it was arranged for them to show up.

Russo's book stops in 1987, but there has been significant progress in Hollywood's depiction of lesbians and gays since that time. The '90s are given only a

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INTERVIEW

few moments — a brief photo montage and a few sentences near the end of the film. Why did you choose to cover this period so briefly?

Epstein: Well, the film we set out to make was to tell about how we got to where we are today. Where we are today we sum up briefly at the end in a montage of gay film images, which is our way of expressing our feeling at this moment — which is one of hope. There are openly gay artists coming out and making movies and that is going to have an effect on the future. Beyond that, it's just impossible to have any sort of historical perspective on the future.

But now, for the first time, we have openly gay actors working in Hollywood; for example, Amanda Bearse, Tom Hulce, Ian McKellen, Rupert Everett. Did you think about interviewing anyone who was in this unique position?

Epstein: Ian McKellen said he didn't feel like he'd have anything to say. He didn't have any experience with any of those films, he wasn't in any of them, so he declined. Amanda Bearse had a phone conversation with and decided that she didn't have enough to say and so we didn't cast her. She's not a film actress. Tom Hulce we didn't talk with, he didn't have a direct association with the films. People in the film are either there because they have a direct association with the clip or they were there as a gay audience member — that was the criteria we set up. Rupert Everett we didn't consider. I guess we could have for *Another Country*, but that was essentially a British film so we just referenced it. We also decided to stick with mainstream Hollywood and only use British films as reference points.

How important was Lily Tomlin to this project?

Epstein: It wouldn't have been made without Lily. It started with us going to her and asking if she would be the headliner on this direct mail campaign we were producing, and she agreed to do that. And she and Jane contributed personally. She headlined the benefit at the Castro and, ultimately, when we'd raised half our budget and it looked like the whole project was going to fall apart because we couldn't raise any more money, she got us a meeting at HBO, and that's how HBO came on board.

The Village Voice [Jan. 30, 1996] quotes Armistead as saying about Lily, "She's been pulling this shit for years. She plays gay for large audiences and the rest of the time remains conspicuously silent. If she doesn't want people to know she's gay, then she shouldn't sell locks of hair in *The Advocate* and she shouldn't take on a project called *The Celluloid Closet*. She's been playing both sides of the fence for a very long time. It enrages me that she presents herself as a person of conscience and continues to dodge the one issue that's central to her life." How do you feel about this controversy?

Epstein: Well, what you just read to me sounds pretty mean-spirited. So, it upsets me. I have great love and respect for Lily. And she was our first choice to be the narrator. Jeffrey and I, as directors, really wanted Lily Tomlin to narrate the movie, and we're really happy she does. I think it's a wonderful contribution to the film. The voice of the narration was written as an omniscient voice, as Dustin Hoffman's was in *Common Threads* and Harvey Fierstein's was in *Harvey Milk*. They're just there as celebrity voices; it's a documentary convention.

Continued on page 47

I Remember Vito

by David Ehrenstein

The first time I saw Vito Russo he scared the day-lights out of me. The year was 1970 and Vito was giving a speech in the meeting hall of a West Side Manhattan church where the Gay Activist Alliance used to meet in the early '70s, prior to the organization's move to its more famous headquarters at the Firehouse. It was a real rouser of a speech, one designed to get a roomful of activists up off their butts and marching, this time at a gay rights demonstration planned for the following day. The crowd of a hundred or so people was utterly silent. No one was going to interrupt this thin, intense young man whose voice was so powerful it could stop an army.

When the speech was over, Vito sat down and smiled. As I would soon learn, there was no contradiction between the speech and the smile. The righteous indignation that Vito felt about living under what Christopher Isherwood so aptly called "the heterosexual dictatorship" and the irrepressible mirth that bubbled out of him whenever he wasn't marshaling the troupes, were two sides of the same coin. Vito was angry about life, but this didn't get in the way of his joy at being alive. Likewise, his critical legacy, *The Celluloid Closet*, was a work of serious protest wrapped in a sly, self-amused chuckle. A good example of the book's blend of politics and humor is Vito's entry on the film *The Fan*, a 1981 serial killer thriller that bore remarkable similarity to the previous year's queer psycho epic, *Cruising*: "As soon as we spot the soundtrack album from *Gypsy* in [his] cluttered apartment," Vito wrote, "We know who the killer is. We get everything but a *New York Post* headline screaming 'Ethel Merman made me gay!'"

Vito loved the movies. Going to them, talking about them, examining their history; there was nothing about the medium he didn't love — except for the fact that it didn't love him back. In finding out why, he discovered the truth about the status quo and the diabolical lengths it goes to punish non-conforming members. By taking Hollywood to task, he found a way to show how homophobia could be channeled throughout an entire culture. This was his way of having the last laugh.

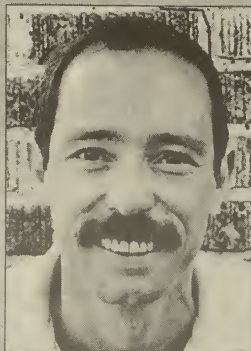
For gays and lesbians who have come of age in the past decade, it must be strange to view some of the clips featured in the movie that Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman have made of *The Celluloid Closet* — particularly *The Detective*, *The Children's Hour*, *Advise and Consent* and *Freebie and the Bean* — and realize that these tortured, self-hating characterizations were all that a previous generation of filmgoers had in the way of queer images on-screen. Well, not quite all, Vito would be sure to remind us. There was always Judy.

Yes, Judy. For, as hard as it may be to imagine, Judy Garland wasn't a figure of camp admiration or closeted cult affection to Vito, but one of active protest. To the system that spawned her, Judy was a mass of problems: too fat, too thin, too unattractive, too emotional, too extreme. She took too many drugs, married too many men, and on and on. To Vito she was just right. She sang, danced, laughed, and, most important of all, she brushed off all them knocks. She was, in short (deep breath — here it comes), a role model. Vito was scarcely alone in his feelings. As he observed many times, it was no coincidence that the Stonewall rebellion took place right after her funeral.

Vito Russo will be remembered for many things, but in considering his life and accomplishments, I somehow think he'd most enjoy being remembered as the biggest Judy Garland queen that ever lived. I'll never forget the look of joy on his face when I told him that plans were underway to finally reconstruct the missing sequences of *A Star is Born*. Unforgettable, too, was the conversation that followed, in which Vito segued from Judy trivia to the state of gay politics and back again, as if one were inseparable from the other.

The last time I saw Vito we talked about Judy, among other things. He was pleased with developments in independent film that showed gay and lesbian writers and directors creating a new sort of cinema. He was also pleased to learn I was writing a book about Martin Scorsese, whose *Raging Bull* he treasured as an honest film about Italian-American life as he knew it. He wasn't pleased about AIDS, of course, which was killing him, and neither was he pleased about the sorry state of gay activism. But he never stopped laughing.

"So as I was saying to Elizabeth the other day," he began, and then stopped himself, practically keeling over with laughter. "Can you imagine? It's come to this? Talking about Elizabeth Taylor like, well, look, she's a friend of mine! ... But seriously ..." ▼



Vito Russo

Photo: Lee Snider/Photo Images



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Review

Continued from cover

short of the standard set by the author.

Russo's original work is essentially a 300-page essay that should have been subtitled "The Gospel According to Vito." It is difficult prose, even for the serious cineaste. Russo not only provides analysis and commentary about the history of homosexuality in film but, in order to give his observations a context, he must paraphrase entire scenes, describe ac-

tion and/or lift dialogue. Even with the accompanying still photos, *The Celluloid Closet* makes for a tedious read. In 1981, Russo's sharp insights and searing examination of cinematic queerness are without precedent; he can't reference all the scholars who have already written about this subject, because the writings don't exist. So he makes it up as he goes along, drawing on quotes from the Hollywood establishment and film reviews, but mostly winging it on the strength of his own perceptions. The rambling outcome, however tedious, is also brilliant.

Workmanlike

In bringing this work to the screen, producers/directors Epstein and Friedman benefit from their ability to use film to illustrate the film medium. The audience sees the actual scenes under discussion, followed or preceded by interviews with actors, directors, screenwriters, and others — many of whom were actually involved with the films being discussed. Lily Tomlin (who also co-produced) provides a voice-over narration written by Armistead Maupin. With the assistance of Sharon Wood, Epstein and Friedman have created a storyline that charts the chronology of gays on film in a succinct and workmanlike fashion. Although it lacks the



Two men dance together in an 1915 film from the Thomas Edison studio, featured in *The Celluloid Closet*.

depth and fire Russo brought to the subject matter, the film's narrative moves forward in an efficient and engaging manner. But

Russo's radical outrage is conspicuously absent from the resulting work; the dispassionate approach the filmmakers bring to the subject is an understandable choice, but one for which they must pay a price.

As *The Celluloid Closet* explains, the silents gave us the sissy — the effeminate man who was offered as comic relief without ever being identified as a homosexual. With the advent of talkies, Greta Garbo added some overtly lesbian innuendoes to *Queen Christina* and *Morocco*, but this sort of thing disappeared rapidly when Hollywood instituted the "Hays Code" in 1934, which placed restrictions on "sex perversion" and other licentious acts in an ostensible effort to protect the public morals. In the '50s, sexless bull-dykes dwelled in cinematic prisons and fey males designed dresses and apartments for leading ladies. Homosexuality was found only between the lines until the '60s.

For the most part, queers of the '60s were depicted as desperate, lonely misfits. On camera, Shirley MacLaine discusses her role in the 1964 film version of *The Children's Hour*, confessing that she, like the rest of Hollywood, was so out of touch with the subject matter at the time, that the unmotivated self-loathing of her lesbian character didn't seem questionable or oppressive in any way. But in Russo's book, screenwriter

Arthur Laurents indicates that some 13 years later, in his 1977 film *The Turning Point*, MacLaine was "actively fighting what little gay mention there was in the script." In a film about the ballet world, MacLaine reportedly lamented, "Oh, I don't know why [homosexuality] has to come up at all." (Epstein and Friedman interview both MacLaine and Laurents for their film, but, curiously, this incident is not discussed.) Elsewhere in '70s, with the advent of gay liberation, "the love that dare not speak its name" wouldn't shut up; therefore, it had to die. Queers were beaten, robbed, insulted, and murdered on camera, all as "just desserts." The restroom murder of a killer transvestite from 1974's *Freebie and the Bean* beautifully illustrates this phenomenon.

Susie and Gore shine

Those interviewed for *The Celluloid Closet* include Susan Sarandon, John Schlesinger, Harry Hamlin, Tom Hanks, Armistead Maupin, and many others. Most of the interview subjects seem remarkably subdued, and as they've been consistently photographed against a dark, shadowy background, the interviews create an almost somber mood. As with the previously referenced Laurents/MacLaine situation, one senses a reluctance on the part of the filmmakers to ask the hard questions. Writer Susie Bright is an unexpected standout for her clarity of expression, and playwright Mart Crowley makes a valuable contribution with a candid assessment of his *Boys in the Band*, almost 30 years after it debuted on the stage. But no one can top the very queer Gore Vidal. As a screenwriter and playwright, Vidal is a Hollywood war-horse who can dish the dirt with complete intellectual and historical authority. His brief description of censor emeritus Will Hays is simply priceless, and his Chuck Heston *Ben Hur* story (repeated in Vidal's memoir *Palimpsest*) is worth the price of admission.

The directors pull together an impressive number of film clips from the films cited in Russo's book, assembling them in a logical fashion to illustrate the story they tell. Yet, while *The Celluloid Closet* doesn't bore, it never quite soars.

A level-headed, almost clinical detachment characterizes the work of Rob Epstein. He used it to great advantage in his two Oscar-winning efforts *The Times of Harvey Milk* and *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*. Dealing re-

Continued on next page



Marlene Dietrich in Josef von Sternberg's *Morocco* (1930).

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INTERVIEW

Closet

Continued from page 45

Vito didn't believe in outing people, however his feelings about closeted people in the business were very clearly expressed in his book. He said, "The public should in fact be aware of the sexuality of gay actors just as it is aware of the heterosexuality of the majority. I do not believe that such a discussion is nobody's business, nor do I believe that it is one of a sexual and therefore private nature. ... In Hollywood, closeted gay people are among the most uptight and uncooperative stumbling blocks in the path of positive gay projects. ... We have cooperated for a very long time in the maintenance of our own invisibility. And now the party is over." Yet, in making the film of this book, you chose not to deal with the subject of closeted people working in Hollywood, with the exception of Rock Hudson. Given that this issue was so important to Russo, why did it not surface in your film?

Epstein: You know, Vito's book was about gay images on the screen. He didn't write a book like Boze Hadleigh about who's gay and who's not gay in Hollywood. Vito was a film historian and it is a scholarly analysis of those images and how those images impact us. That was the movie we wanted to make. We didn't want to make a movie about who's gay and who's not gay in Hollywood and how those choices compromise those images. It would have been another film if we'd done that.

Review

Continued from page 46

spectively with the emotionally charged subjects of murder and the AIDS crisis, that distance was a great asset. But the approach is less effective in *The Celluloid Closet*. The injustices and oppression foisted upon homosexuals by the silver screen are so culturally ingrained that the hands-off approach of the filmmakers makes a poor case for Russo's clearly delineated cultural crimes against queer humanity. A more agitprop sensibility might have lifted this work into the stratosphere — certainly the treatment of gays in film has, on more than one occasion, brought homosexuals into the streets of our nation for mass protests. Yet none of that justifiable anger is reflected in this production.

Epstein and Friedman also disappoint with their refusal to deal in any significant way with the issue of closeted homosexuals within the Hollywood community. Trotting out poor, dead Rock Hudson does not constitute a serious discussion of this phenomenon — one that was crucially important to author Russo. *The Celluloid Closet* is a respectful film — a nice film, if you will — one that can play to a mainstream audience. But the passion that fueled Russo's investigation is conspicuously absent. Epstein and Friedman provide the requisite documentation, and in the most literal sense of the word, that is exactly what a documentary is supposed to do. But by providing the heterosexual audience with a pill they can swallow, they offer sophisticated gay filmgoers a history lesson that may seem rather dry. ▼

The Celluloid Closet opens tonight, March 14, at the Castro Theatre, where it will play through March 21. The opening night screening is a benefit for Frameline hosted by Lily Tomlin. For tickets and information, call 703-8656.



"We didn't want to make a film about who's gay and who isn't in Hollywood. It would have been another film if we'd done that."

Who didn't return your calls?

Epstein: David Geffen and Barry Diller wouldn't give a penny to the project.

Friedman: It's ironic that the biggest donors to the project were Steve Tisch, who's a heterosexual producer, and Hugh Hefner. That was it, until Jim Hornel, who wasn't even Hollywood — he's San Francisco.

Epstein: But I think everybody should be proud of the movie. The bottom line for me is the movie, and I'm proud of it. I think Armistead is proud of it, and I think Lily is proud of it. That's why we all did it. ▼

Friedman: One of the big problems with the film was giving it its structure, giving it a real clear dramatic through-line. Whenever we went off the subject, the film just lost momentum.

Epstein: And the point Vito was making is that there are people

who are gay and in the closet within the Hollywood industry who are participating in their own destruction. And well, we encountered that, to the extent that there were a lot of gay people who have a lot of money and who are really important in the industry but who wouldn't give us the time of day.

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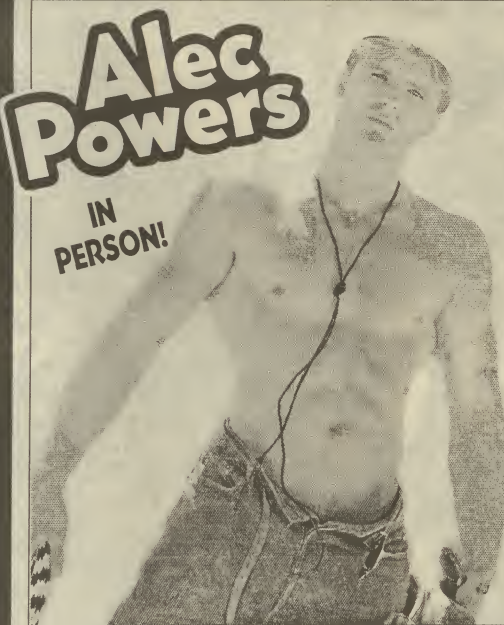
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Bill T. Jones and Company Still Around, Looking Good On the Move

by Wendell Ricketts

With Bill T. Jones' *Still/Here* behind us—including the controversy generated by criticisms of the piece and by Jones' commentary on the commentators—the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's return to formal, even abstract work during a recent three-night run at the Center for the Arts was something of a relief. Indeed, the tumult of the last year made it easy to forget that such intellectually rigorous and classically structured choreography has been the signature of the Jones/Zane company since its inception in 1982.

One of the most interesting aspects of the company's personality has always been the commitment to include performers who do not, to put it mildly, conform to the ideal of the dancer's body. Those who saw *Still/Here* will no doubt remember 300-pound Larry Goldhuber, who has been

with the company some 10 years, as one of the piece's most expressive and watchable movers. Though Goldhuber is currently on leave, Jones' troupe continues to be cast with an eye toward what the late Arnie Zane called, in a 1987 interview, "a different essence."

Indeed, the company's performance last week showcased dancers ranging from the tall and almost skeletal to the short, zafitig, and sassy. There isn't one who isn't fascinating to look at, and the miracle is that individuals with such distinct looks, such differences in technical strength, and such striking individuality can dance together as a true ensemble.

Of the three pieces Jones' troupe performed, his newest, *Ursonate*—a "work in progress"—will surely generate the most sharply divided opinions. It is a difficult work, made more so by Jones' choice of a score, Kurt Schwitters' *Die Sonate in Urlauten* (*Sonata in*



Bill T. Jones

Primordial Sounds).

Schwitters, an early 20th-century Dadaist painter, writer, and

collagist, is perhaps best known for his *Merz* ("cast-off") sculptures—assemblages of rags, ma-

chine parts, scraps of paper, and myriad other disparate elements that he sometimes composed into immense "trees." But Schwitters' creations weren't merely collections of *objets trouvés*; rather, he juxtaposed elements with a clear and purposeful sense of Dadaist discourse. (Once, when asked the question "What is art?" Schwitters replied, "What isn't?")

Schwitters' *Sonate in Urlauten* (apparently composed over an entire decade) is constructed—or, perhaps more accurately, deconstructed—with a similar intention. Using nonsense syllables declaimed by a solo male voice, Schwitters precisely duplicated the classical form of the sonata: the contrasting tonic and dominant themes, the exploration of new material in a development section, and the ending recapitulation of the opening motives. (Schwitters perhaps knew and appreciated the irony of the fact that the term "sonata" was coined in the 17th century to distinguish a work for instruments from one for voices.)

Notwithstanding its artistic credentials as a Dadaist excursus, however, *Sonate in Urlauten* is virtually impossible to listen to without wanting to grind one's teeth to a fine powder. As accompaniment for Jones' *Ursonate*, it proves a formidable adversary and, in the end, conquers the choreography by making it seem as flat, repetitive, and emotionless as the score. If Jones was attempting an intellectual marriage of movement and music, as Balanchine did with his crisp, modernist dances to Stravinsky, a composer whose work was deemed just as unlistenable by his contemporaries, the effort hasn't gelled. Despite its general disorganization and some odd movement jokes that don't work, however, *Ursonate* contains some striking movement passages. Don't give up on it yet.

Return of 'D-Man'

As an opener for the program's second half, Jones' 1995 *New Duet* showed company members Odile Reine-Adelaide and Gordon White at their best in a *pas de deux* in which there is no actual partnering and in which the dancers never touch. *New Duet* opens with a series of gorgeous contractions and isolations by Reine-Adelaide, whose shaved head and dramatic stage presence make her a kind of punk Martha Graham. White, too, carries the elegant tone of the piece with bravado and charm. As the duet ends, the dancers seem on the verge of approaching one another, and Jones leaves the question hanging in the air.

Jones completed the evening with his 1989 *D-Man in the Waters*, a work dedicated to company member Demian Acquavella, who died of AIDS about a year after Arnie Zane. *D-Man* was one of the first dances by a major company to deal openly with the dance world's AIDS losses, and Zane's *The Gift/No God Logic*, his last creation, and Jones' *Absence*, choreographed after Zane's death, form a kind of trilogy with the piece. It is, strikingly, a sunny, almost pastoral ballet in which dancers smile at each other as they link arms, touching one another with gentleness, even whimsy. The final image, in which dancer Keith Johnson toboggans fearlessly across the stage on his stomach, captures the derring-do and playfulness of Acquavella, surely one of Jones/Zane's most indomitable spirits. ▼

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Edge Fest Program Features Work by Jenkins, Mann and Jones

Movers and Shakers

by Wendell Ricketts

The 10th Annual Edge Festival continues this month at Dancers' Group/Footwork with appearances by well-known local artists Margaret Jenkins, Sara Shelton Mann and Rhodessa Jones. "Edge Makers Program II," which wraps up this six-week, multi-site celebration by Bay Area dance and music artists, includes the San Francisco premiere of Rhodessa Jones' *The Blue Stories* and an opportunity to view the much-awarded work of Jenkins' 22-year-old company and of Mann's Contraband troupe, now in its 16th year.

Like Mann, Jenkins is an alumna of the Merce Cunningham Studio; indeed, her connection to the traditions of modern dance includes study with Jose Limon and Martha Graham, a five-year stint in Twyla Tharp's original company in the mid-'60s, and, in San Francisco, the establishment of one of the West Coast's first studio-performing spaces, in which Jenkins herself taught with such local notables as Helen Danneberg and Christopher Beck.

Although Jenkins' last full-length work was seen in the Bay Area in 1993 with the premiere of *The Gates* (Far Away Near), a collaboration with Rinde Eckert, Paul Dresner and others, her company has continued touring extensively. Jenkins, too, has kept busy with local theater work; she directed movement for A.C.T.'s

Hecuba in 1995 and for this season's *The Tempest*; Jenkins' newest work for her company, *Fault*, will premiere here this fall.

Sara Shelton Mann and Contraband have been extravagantly praised both in the Bay Area and nationally for, among other things, the eight major works they have created over the last decade: *Evol*, *Religare*, *The Invisible War*, *Oracle*, *Mandala*, *Mira Cycle I*, *Mira Cycle II*, *The Fall*, and *Mira Cycle III*. Mann is widely known, too, as a teacher, having worked with students at Jacob's Pillow, the New School for Social Research in New York, the Toronto Theater Festival and in such far-flung venues as the Sacred Dance Guild in Hawaii and Moving Arts in Köln, Germany.

Rhodessa Jones

Rhodessa Jones, too, has been working in the Bay Area for some two decades, though she may most recently be remembered for the last three seasons' sold-out performances of *The Medea Project*, the "Theater for Incarcerated Women" program that Jones founded in 1987. In 1990, Jones premiered *Big Butt Girls*, *Hard-Headed Women*, a series of monologues that were Jones' first attempt to make art of her work with women prisoners; after that, she started bringing prisoners and ex-cons to the stage themselves. (Audiences at her 1994 *A Taste of Somewhere Else: A Place at the Table* may have been a little ruffled by the appearance of armed

prison guards in the wings.)

One of Jones' earlier Bay Area forays into theater came with *The Legend of Lily Overstreet*, a reminiscence of Jones' own work as a peep-show dancer in San Francisco's Tenderloin. In 1980, she won a California Arts Council "Artists in the Schools" grant to create the piece — in which she sometimes appeared nude at a local junior high school. (Just try to imagine that happening today.)

It is, in a sense, all the way back to Lily Overstreet that Jones goes in *The Blue Stories: Black Erotica on Letting Go*, and then all the way up to the present again with a series of recollections examining "sexual awakenings, death and renewal, rage and love."

Says Edge Festival curator Mercy Sidbury, "I have huge respect [for the performers in the Edge Festival] because there are so many other options that are easier, more compensated... I really want to honor the fact that people hang in there and do it for 20, 30 years." ▼

Margaret Jenkins Dance Company and Sara Shelton Mann share a program on March 21 and 22; Rhodessa Jones appears on March 23 and 24. All performances begin at 8 p.m. at Dancers' Group/Footwork Studio in San Francisco's Mission District. For tickets, call (415)-824-5044.



Margaret Jenkins

Photo: Jeffrey Newbury

Schulman

Continued from page 42

against each other, and are never placed in the spectrum of American fiction.

The reason I am emphasizing lesbian books here is that the gap in recognition and financial support between primary gay male characters and primary lesbian characters is greater and more grotesque than it has ever been. Today, a 23-year-old gay man with a poolside novel has more social currency than Judy Grahn. The intense network of gay men in the magazine and newspaper business has made no difference for lesbian work... Independent funding foundations systematically support gay men with large, generous sums of money every year and most of these have never supported a woman with primary lesbian content [in her books].

The current state of lesbian publishing in the mainstream boils down to two basic options. First, there are the publishers who have been publishing primary lesbian content for a number of years and have institutionalized niche-marketing within their companies. They actually have a low level of expectation for these books. They expect them to sell subculturally and be marginally reviewed. They will not advertise, they will not pull out their big guns to get serious media coverage, they will not take the authors and the books as seriously as they will straight, closeted or subtextual books. They rely on the niche-market substructure to sell the books automatically.

The second option seems to be publishers with no experience

selling fiction with primary lesbian content. They perceive that there is a larger gay market out there than there really is. These publishers also have no interest or intention of selling the newly acquired lesbian anomaly to a larger broader market and expect the niche-market substructure to just kick in. They throw a lot of money at the author without making the commitment to confronting the institutions of containment. Then, when the book has predictable sales and doesn't cash out, they write off lesbians' books and go back to what they were doing.

Publishers have to be ready to address that marginalization. Here are some concrete things [that can be done]:

- Straight authors with big guns in house need to be overtly recruited to the project of making books with primary lesbian content acceptable American reading. For example, ads with Stephen King, Terry MacMillan and Amy Tan saying, "We read gay and lesbian books. Lesbians' books are part of American literature."

- The books need to be advertised with straight writers of the same level of merit.

- Gay authors and straight authors should be toured together.

- Publishers need to encourage comparisons to writers with similar aesthetic concerns, not just other gay work.

- If magazines are clearly operating with quota systems (for reviewing), the publishers need to directly address this issue with the book review assignment editors. ▼

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OPERA

Compelling 'Grimes'

Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten; English National Opera, David Atherton, conductor; VHS Video, 144 minutes

by Stephanie von Buchau

Ambivalent about his desires, as one might well be in a country that jailed even consenting adults for homosexual acts, Benjamin Britten, more than any gay composer I can think of, sublimated, debated and glorified his sexual preference in a series of brilliantly conceived and coded operas.

Now that we know all about Britten, his emotional conflicts and his passionate love affair with Peter Pears — the tenor muse for whom many of his greatest works were written — it is easy to decode such operas as *Peter Grimes*, *Albert Herring*, *Billy Budd*, *Death in Venice* and even the minor *Owen Wingrave*, in which the hero would rather die in a haunted room than marry. In fact, it is difficult sometimes to think of these operas as anything but anguished cries about "otherness" from a man whose true nature was all but crushed by the banal world of straight morality.

Fortunately, Tim Albery, director of this English National Opera production of Britten's first (and most successful) stage work, filmed at London's Coliseum in 1994, resists the temptation to nudge us in the ribs. Instead, he pays Britten the supreme compliment of understanding that whatever drove him to write this opera in 1945, the result is art, not propaganda. Albery allows the viewer to decide why Peter repeatedly cries, "I'll marry Ellen! I'll marry Ellen!" Is he trying to convince

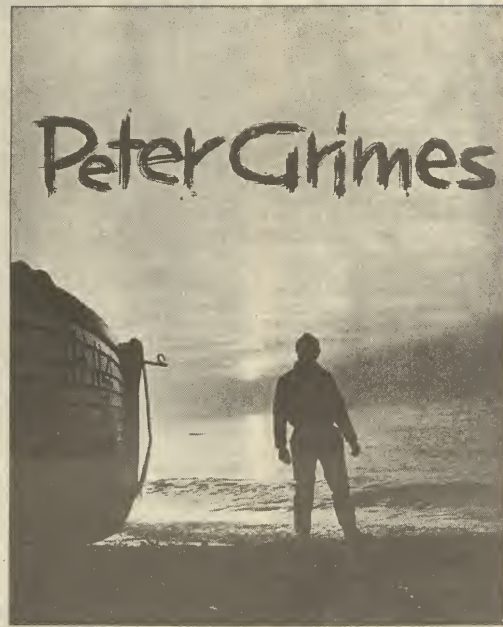


Photo: Adam Woolfitt

Cover photo from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden recording.

himself that he wants to marry her, that he truly desires her, or is he merely seeking the approbation of the East Anglian Borough where he lives and fishes?

Half-naked little boys run out of the surf and dress, giggling, on the beach; it is sweetly suggestive, not smutty. When Peter beats his apprentice, we understand his rage but are not sure if the violence is

caused by frustration at his outsider status, or — more sinister — by repressed sexuality toward the frightened child. In any case, the composer consistently shows compassion for Peter's torment.

By any standards an hysterical opera, *Peter Grimes* should be grounded in harsh physical reality. Albery and video director Barrie Gavin always have the camera on the right face as they explore the rigid group-think of the Borough's intolerant folk. If you thought British singers were bland, the bigoted Bob Boles (Alan Woodrow), the sleazy Ned Keene (Robert Poulton), and the laudanum-addict Mrs. Sedley (Susan Gorton) will change your mind.

Janice Cairns sings Ellen Orford, the widowed schoolteacher Peter keeps saying he wants to marry, with a strong, metallic soprano that makes her more than the usual put-upon wimp; she makes us wonder if she really wants to marry Grimes. Ellen and Captain Balstrode (Alan Opie) are the only ones with the courage to face the Borough's mob rule. A cuddly, middle-aged bear, Opie sings Balstrode as beautifully as I've ever heard it, with deep sympathy for Peter's pain.

It is probably blasphemy to prefer the *Grimes* of Philip Langridge to that of its creator, Pears, or of its most celebrated proponent in our times, Jon Vickers. Yet Langridge, who has the lean, craggy good looks of Peter O'Toole or Jeremy Irons, manages to combine the best attributes of his predecessors with none of their weaknesses. He has Vickers' masculine sound without the space-case nuttiness, and Pears' otherworldly purity without the mannered asexuality.

There is no doubt that Langridge's Peter is deranged, but now we understand why. Trying to force himself into the conventional mold required by the Borough's Victorian morality, Peter becomes so frustrated and disoriented that everything he touches, including his apprentice, is poisoned. It isn't his desires that destroy Peter Grimes, but the necessity of keeping them hidden from a censorious world. Despite his radiant arias, Peter Grimes is helplessly inarticulate about his real feelings, unlike Britten, who was able to write music that saved his sanity. ▼

MUSIC

Chorus, Talk of Da Town, Divas Provide Helping Hand



On March 27 at the Palace of Fine Arts, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, a cappella group Talk of Da Town, and SF's own Screaming Divas (above) will perform a benefit concert for Varsity Gold, Lincoln High School's acclaimed show choir. Varsity Gold hopes to compete in a prestigious national competition next month called "Show Stoppers Invitational," but first they have to raise the \$15,000 needed to get them to the LA-based competition. Enter the Gay Men's Chorus and friends, who were more than willing to support the Varsity Gold effort.

"Varsity Gold's being chosen to participate in Show Stoppers is a real honor," said Shawn Aluk, Lincoln High's musical director. "This is the first time in the history of the competition that an urban, multi-ethnic school choral group has been chosen. Additionally, we feel fortunate to have the internationally acclaimed Gay Men's Chorus donating time and talent to our kids."

The Varsity Gold benefit concert is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling Lincoln High School at 759-2700. Block ticket sales are encouraged. A local celebrity MC will be announced. ▼

Chicks in Space

Wired Women: Gender and New Realities in Cyberspace edited by Lynn Cherny and Elizabeth Reba Weise; Seal Press, \$16

by Robin Sweeney

I admit it. I spend more time checking my e-mail, flirting with people I only know as pixels and hunting for that one last URL than is probably good for me. I spend a lot of time in cyberspace, and I love the oncoming information age.

I'm quite aware, though, that more often than not, women are treated as roadkill on the information superhighway. The Internet was created to allow Department of Defense drones to keep in touch no matter what, and even today, despite online services that provide pretty interfaces and books that explain netiquette — the etiquette of using the 'Net — the online world often seems like an all-boys' club.

Lynn Cherny and Elizabeth Reba Weise, the editors of *Wired*

Women: Gender and New Realities in Cyberspace, have gathered together 15 essays that inform, rant, share personal histories about going online, and make suggestions for the future of women in cyberspace. (*Wired Women* is a lot like the best experiences of being online, actually.) From one writer's experience with online harassment, to the way fifth grade girls and boys use a network to post messages about a school project, to how netsex challenges assumptions about gender, *Wired Women* addresses the issues that exist on the 'Net.

Touching and funny

"I got online so I could break up with my girlfriend," Elizabeth Reba Weise's introduction begins, and her story of learning how to use the Internet to facilitate the most personal of communications is both touching and funny. (Like most wired women, Weise is biased toward both the WELL — the Sausalito-based online community — and the Internet. As a devoted America OnLine user, I thought it was a flaw in the book to ignore commercial online services.) Her journey — wrestling with hardware that makes no sense, learning the ins and outs of software, and eventually connecting with an online community (in her case, the Women on the Well conference) —

reflects the experience of most 'Net users.

The question of how women experience the 'Net, and how that differs from the way men do, is at the heart of several of the essays. From how women are treated on male-dominated Usenet groups — poorly, usually, with some suggestions on how to deal with the buffoons — to how to connect with hackers, *Wired Women* provides commentary and insight.

The contributors to this anthology are familiar with the technology and its failings. Ellen Ullman's essay, "Come in, CQ: The Body on the Wire," addresses the limits of both the technology and programming, and the way the limits of technology affect the human relationships behind the cursors in one of the best essays in the book.

While there are other, more useful reference books for learning about the Internet, once you've logged on, experienced a flame war, and wondered why all the boozos have Internet access, *Wired Women* is a great read. ▼

Way Out West

Martha Moody by Susan Stinson; Spinsters, \$10.95

by Deborah Peifer

Martha Moody is the remarkable story of Amanda Linger, who, having fallen in love with a real woman named Martha Moody, creates a fictional character named Martha Moody. Amanda's fictional Martha is a wild and

Les/Gay Chorus Honors Elton John



Elton John's hits will take center stage March 22 & 23 (8 p.m.) when the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco presents "A Tribute to the Music of Elton John" at the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason. Chorus Artistic Director Pat Parr explains, "Since the chorus is dedicated to presenting gay and lesbian composers, Elton John seemed like a perfect choice for our spring concert — a concert that is usually pop, upbeat, silly and at the same time serious." Tickets for the concert are available thru A Different Light Bookstore on Castro Street, or by phone on 861-7067. Tickets will be available at the door.

OBITUARY

William Virgil Nestricks: 1941-1996

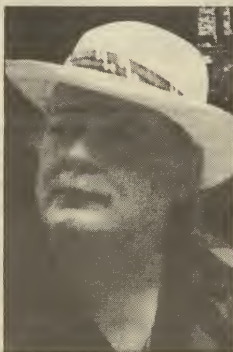
by Paul Parish

William Virgil Nestricks, Associate Professor of English, Chairman of the Department of Comparative Literature, and founder of the film studies program at UC Berkeley, died of a massive stroke on Thursday, February 29, 1996 at his home in Berkeley. He was 55.

Bill Nestricks was a passionate student of all the arts, a vastly learned man. He was an expert in Renaissance poetry and theater, in the Romantic poets, opera, ballet and film. He knew many languages, was an accomplished pianist and a fabulous cook. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard (in 1960), and after a year's study in Cambridge, England, returned to Harvard for his Ph.D. At Harvard he was a center of creative ferment, "the person around whom everything turned," said Russell Merritt, a colleague. And at Berkeley he was a widely loved teacher and a creative administrator.

He was among the first to give academic respectability to gay sensibility — to put together "high" arts and "low," and to champion cult films (*Cobra Woman*, *The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T*). His classes drew crowds of 400 or more, while his extravagant personal manner proclaimed that he was gay and lived for art. He gave heart to many gay students struggling to find their identities. Beyond that, he inspired a generation of students, gay and straight, to liberate their imaginations and follow their muses.

Nestricks oversaw many academic programs. At various times he was dean, faculty advisor, department chair, head of the film major, head of freshman English. Perhaps the most unusual and fruitful Ph.D. dissertation he had a hand in literally made dance history. He helped make way for Millicent Hodson's interdisciplinary research, resulting in her reconstruction of Nijinsky's long-lost ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, which the Joffrey Ballet presented to



William Nestricks

great acclaim in 1989.

An article Nestricks wrote on Edmund Spenser's poetry at the age of 19 is still being taught, and his essay on *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* is regarded as unsurpassed, but his energies went primarily to his students, his dinner guests, to his audiences.

He came to the attention of the larger public through his lectures for the Pacific Film Archive and his work with the San Francisco International Film Festival, which will devote a program in memory of him this spring.

"Bill was a close friend of the Pacific Film Archive for 25 years," said Edith Kramer, head of the PFA. "We all loved him. What a personality! He was always urging us to show *Cobra Woman*."

"The staff and audience were always learning from Bill. He had a passionate interest in film and was very generous with his time, recommending films, introducing them — brilliant, scintillating, explosively funny. We will miss him."

There will be a memorial service March 20 at the International House Auditorium, 2299 Piedmont (corner of Bancroft Way) in Berkeley, at 4 p.m. Contributions may be made to the William Nestricks Memorial Fund, care of the Department of Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley. ▼

magical creature who churns clouds into butter with her magnificent thighs and flies on the back of a fabulous winged cow. The real Martha is a powerful woman who teaches Amanda about sex, while Amanda teaches her about courage. As a result, both learn about love.

Susan Stinson skillfully contrasts the day-to-day dreariness of life on the western frontier with the fantastic imaginings of her

narrator, and the result is both a realistic picture of 19th century women and a journey into a wildly inventive world. I enjoyed Stinson's detailed look at the loneliness of the women who lived on the western plains, and the ways in which female friendship served to save both their lives and their sanity. Martha Moody is a pleasurable read, filled with winning characters and fascinating history. ▼

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THIS WEEK



Photo: Elizabeth Gorelik

▲ Friday

Cid Pearlman's Nesting Dolls Dance Company performs to a vocal score by Laurie Amat, and instrumental score by Jonathan (Camper Van Beethoven) Segel, in **How is a Church like the Sea...** at Theater Artaud.

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 15

Answered Prayers

Robert Coffman reads selections from Truman Capote's unfinished novel. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm. \$10. Studio @ Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Cabaret

MCC/SF presents community theater production of the Broadway musical. Fri. & Sat. thru 3/30 at 8pm. \$10. MCC/SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Come Out for Cuba

Screening of "Strawberries and Chocolate," spaghetti dinner. \$5-25 donation. 7pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 995-4678.

Contemporary Crafts Market

Decorative and functional art, all hand-made. Fri.-Sun. \$5. Herbst and Festival Pavilions, Fort Mason. 995-4925.

Cozy:

"Notions of Domesticity and Safety" exhibition, reception tonight, 6pm. Runs thru 4/13. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Gay Comedy Night

Amy Boyd, Karla Carmony, Sabrina Matthews. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Herstories:

"Cutting Through the Yellow Wallpaper," exhibition of mixed media works by Virginia Bowen. On view 3/15, 29. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

How is a Church Like the Sea

Dance company Nesting Dolls explores interior and

exterior landscapes. Thru Sun. at 8pm. \$12.50-14.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

If It's Magic...

"Why Can't It Be Everlasting?" Unveiling and celebration of Bob Lavless' mural. 6:30pm. SF City Clinic, 356 7th St.

I'm Every Go-Go!

Gregory O'Neill's solo performance, a work-in-progress. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Kevin Killian, Tan Lin

Reading by authors, respectively, of *Shy* and *Lotion*. *Bullwhip Giraffe*. \$5. 7:30pm. New College Theater, 777 Valencia. 281-9338.

Lypsinka Must Be Destroyed!

"The First Farewell" Like a glamorous phoenix, Lypsinka rises from the ashes of her Minnellian nightmare. Thru 3/31, \$18-20. 8pm. Sats. at 8:10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Spirit of Invention:

"Bay Area Instrument Builders" curated by Peter Whitehead, part of Edge Festival. Thru Sat. at 8pm. \$10. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

The Taming of the Shrew

The African-American Shakespeare Co. presents a contemporary version of Shakespeare's comedy. Thru 3/17, call for times. \$12. Next Stage Theater, 1668 Bush. 333-1918 x 2.

Three Ring

Sexually spiritual circus family: Lisi DeHaas, Miriam Kronberg, Alexis Vaughn. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/16. \$8-12. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

Anna Deavere Smith portrays nearly 40 real-life individuals with perspectives on the '92 uprising. Thru 3/17, call for times. \$21.50-34. Tonight at 8pm. Marines Mem'l Theatre, 609 Sutter. (510) 845-4700.

2 Boys in a Bed...

"On a Cold Winter's Night," James Edwin Parker's comic tale, directed by Ed Decker. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 3/16. \$12-16. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Witness to the Self

"Testigo del Ser," first U.S. solo exhibition by Nahum B. Zenil, opening tonight, 6pm. Thru 7/1. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Saturday 16

Behind Enemy Lines:

"Fighting the Radical Right Across America," media activist Robert Bray's seminar analyzes attacks on GLBT civil rights. \$20. 1pm. 1360 Mission #200. 552-7200.

Ron Emery

Memorial show of figure drawings and sculpture by local gay artist, proceeds benefit Continuum, Open Studios and Art Span. Reception tonight, 7pm, runs thru 3/22. Back to the Picture Gallery, 934 Valencia.

Hearing Loss

"HIV/AIDS, Hearing Loss & Communication," free workshop by Hearing Society. 3/16, 23 & 4/13, 1-4pm. 870 Market, Suite 330. 693-5870 (voice) or 834-1005 (TTY).

Iolanthe

Lamplighters Music Theatre performs Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta: flock of fairies challenge the peers of Parliament. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/31. \$19-23. Lindland Theatre, 175 Phelan. 277-0331.



▲ Thursday

Jamie McHugh performs **Alive At the Edge: Field Notes from an Endangered Species** at New College Theater.

It

Cynthia Bruckman portrays 20s starlet Clara Bow, the "It" Girl. Fri. & Sat. thru 3/31 at 8pm. \$8-10. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St. 978-2345.

Psycho Monkey on Planet Earth

Disfigured young man and his twisted family tree: monologue with dance, original score, presented by The Marsh. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/23. \$15. Norse Auditorium, 275 Hayes. 826-5750.

¿Que Nuevas?

"What's New?: The Immaculate Conception," a multimedia extravaganza by Latina Theatre Lab. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 3/17. \$10-15. Brava! Studio Theatre, 2180 Bryant. 658-4543.

Spit Out Your Gun...

"It's School Policy, a comedy about teaching" by Miriam Engelberg and Gayle Schmitt. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2:30pm thru 3/31. \$12. Asian American Theatre, 403 Arguello. 922-6841.

10th Anniversary

People of Color Gay & Lesbian Groups of SF/Oakland Alcoholics Anonymous celebrates 10 years. \$5. Meeting 7:30pm followed by dance. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St.

Walking the Dead

Keith Curran's play focuses on a woman who undergoes female-to-male sex change. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/13, call for times. \$12-18. Tonight at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Sunday 17

Art From the Heart Heals

HIV/AIDS art exhibit, thru 3/23. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 647-2005.

Beer Bust

Pacific Bears California host beer bust, 50/50 raffle to benefit charity. Noon-3pm. Daddy's, 440 Castro. 621-8732.

Flashpoint

Contributors to erotic anthology, including Will Leber, Aaron Travis, read, free.

7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

St. Paddy's Day

Homemade corned beef & cabbage, Irish tunes. Hamburger Mary's, 1582 Folsom. 626-1985.

Thorns and Vines...

"And reading between the lines," erotic sculptural work by Jadine Lum, reception today, 3pm. Thru 5/11. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-1672.

Monday 18

Deaf Support Group

For lesbian/gay/bi/trans/questioning youth. Mondays at 8pm. Edge Community Center, 39180 State, Fremont. 255-0700 (TTY).

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Lisa Geduldig, aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Goldfield & Koldewyn

Musical team in songs romantic and vaudevillian, Mondays thru 4/8. \$10/2 drink min'm. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Alan Helms

Reads from *Young Man from the Provinces*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Terrence McNally

Tony Award-winning playwright (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*) in onstage conversation to benefit Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center of SF Public Library. \$15. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

New Century Chamber Orchestra

15-piece string ensemble perform Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, Bartok. \$22. 8pm. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-2757.

Stitch and Bitch

Amazon Sewing Circle, meets every other Mon. 7pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Tuesday 19

AIDS Theatre Festival

HIV-related plays and performance, in conjunction with 8th National AIDS Update Conference. Various times thru 3/22, call for info. 554-8436.

John James Audubon

Exhibit of "The Watercolors for *The Birds of America*" thru 4/14. \$6. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Barbie Drag

Party & Contest, featuring Pussy Torette, Margo St. James. Upfront. Bring Barbie or come as Barbie. \$10. benefit for Kay Tsenin, municipal judge. 7pm. Sahara Restaurant, 444 De Haro. 255-0813.

Robert Glück, Carla Harryman

Small Press Traffic presents two postmodern authors. \$5. 8pm. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Positive:

"A Visual Aid Legacy" exhibition curated by Larry Rinder, includes Sam Allen, Ed Aulerich-Sugai, David Cannon Dashiell, John Davis, Elliott

Photo: Steve Savage

Linwood, m thru 3/27. M Center, 286 777-8242.

What Ab

Exhibition "ily"-science brance, run The Explora Lyon. 563-7

Nahum B

Graphic wo Mexican art Polanco Ga 252-5753.

Wedn

Arc of L

Contributors lesbian love Barbara Rut read, free. 7 Times, 888 282-9246.

The Ass

Sketch com mockery of thru March Car Theatre 956-8497.

Beach B

Babylon Musical tou world now. Family, We times. \$18 8pm. Club 421-4222.

Girl Jes

Hard-rocking from L.A. P Pussyycat. 1 911 Folsom

John Gu

Onstage co Tony Award wright (*Six Separation*) Herbst The Ness. 392-

Land of

"Japanese Photograph 5/19. \$4. J Center for 1 4th St. 495



▲ Saturday

Mary Shaw (left) and Gina Fields play kissy-face in Keith Curran's *Walking the Dead* at Theatre Rhinoceros.

Valencia. 461-9479.

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Faulkner's Bicycle

Heather McDonald's play: family ties in Mississippi, headliner of 2nd Annual Working Women festival. \$10-12. Wed.-Sat. at 9pm thru 3/31. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Flesh Flash

"The Body Electric," Rick Herold's nude paintings on vinyl, thru 4/10. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant, Loft 110. 284-0567.

Heartbreak

In Jack Heifner's play, a writer exploits his best friends and earnest lover. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$12-16. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Maestro!

Exhibition of thirty prints of internationally famous conductors by SF photographer Tom Zimmeroff. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/23. Free. San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Making Porn

Play about the gay pornography industry by Ronnie Larsen, starring Rex Chandler. Thru 3/31, call for times. \$20. Tonight at 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Nelson

Recent paintings: nude portraiture. Thurs.-Sat. thru 3/30. Timothy Higbee Gallery, 30 Rose. 621-4923.

Positive Motion

Creative support group for men living with HIV/AIDS, expression of feelings thru movement. 6 weeks thru 5/5. \$60-120. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 461-9479.

Saving the Utah Wilderness

Video and presentation by Brian Besser to Gay & Lesbian Sierrans, free. 7:30pm. Sierra Club Library, 730 Polk. 923-5530.

Sleater-Kinney

Dyke-grrrl band from Olympia. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St. 621-4455.

Véhicules à Paris

Paintings by Helen Berggruen. Mon.-Sat. thru 3/27. Alliance Française de San Francisco, 1345 Bush. 775-7755.

Tony Kushner. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/19, call for times. \$21.50-\$34. Tonight at 8pm. Berkeley Rep Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Andrew Lloyd Webber:

"Music of the Night," theatrical concert starring Kevin Gray. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/7, call for times. \$30-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre. 776-1999.

Wild Imaginings

Group show of works on paper, thru 4/10. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Thursday 21

Alive At the Edge:

"Field Notes from an Endangered Species," a solo performance and ceremony by Jamie McHugh. Thru 3/23 at 8pm. \$12. New College Theatre, 777

PHFFFT—

"An Air Pulsated Kinetic Sound Environment" installation piece by sound artist Trimpin. Thru 4/27. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Purlie Victorious

Ossie Davis' comedy about race relations in the old South. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$8-12. Multi Ethnic Theatre, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. 550-8161.

Ripple

Connie Champagne's rock band plays the Paradise Lounge. 308 11th St. 861-6906.

Round Up

New gay and lesbian country/western night. 7pm. V/sf. 278 11th St. 621-1530.

Slavs!

"Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness," by



Photo: Lee Edwards-Ruben

▲ Wednesday

Connie Champagne and Lora are girls in the band *Ripple*, playing the Paradise Lounge.

Linwood, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/27. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 777-8242.

What About AIDS?

Exhibition "for the whole family"—science, art, remembrance, runs thru 6/2. \$9. The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon. 563-7337.

Nahum B. Zenil

Graphic works by a leading Mexican artist, thru 4/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Wednesday 20

Arc of Love

Contributors to anthology of lesbian love poems, including Barbara Ruth, Merle Woo, read, free. 7:30pm. Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

The Associates

Sketch comedy that makes a mockery of hypocrisy. Wed. thru March. \$10. 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical tour around the world now includes the Royal Family. Wed.-Sun., call for times. \$18-45. Tonight at 8pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green. 421-4222.

Girl Jesus

Hard-rocking all-dyke band from L.A. plays *Faster Pussycat*. 10pm. CW Saloon, 911 Folsom. 974-1585.

John Guare

Onstage conversation with Tony Award-winning playwright (*Six Degrees of Separation*). \$15. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Land of Paradox:

Japanese Landscape Photography exhibit, thru 5/19. \$4. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Extra-Value Dinner Specials



Chicken Fried Steak with mashed potatoes & gravy, fresh vegetable & soup or Sonoma greens salad.....7.95

Grilled Pork Chops with apple-ginger dressing, Thai peanut sauce, mashed potatoes & soup or salad....9.75

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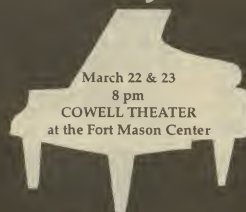
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Keith Curran

Directed by...
Reid Davis

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BAR TALK

PARTING GLANCES

Headlines On Castro 2/15

You: tall, red jacket, blk jeans, tan boots, blonde w/glasses, 6'2", 180, cap, blk & red plaid shirt, jeans, w/ friend. Saw you later on phone in front of Metro cruised each other but too shy. Did we connect? Dinner, maybe more? **8901.**

#24 Bus 2/18 8pm; Royal Ground 2/18 8:30 pm

Smiled at you on bus (walked back from Geary to Ellis but you were gone) & again at Royal Ground on Fillmore. You: amazingly cute, gold earring in left ear. Me: tall, dark, would love to meet you. Please call. **8902.**

Valley Of The Dolls 2/18/92

I bought your last Helen candle. I must have Anne, Jennifer & Neely. Your energy seemed warm & friendly as we met. Call me, I'm David. **8904.**

Brian

We met and spent an absolutely incredible 6 months together in Denver. I recently saw you @ 18th and Castro with some guy hanging on your neck. I need you, I love you, you look great. No more Crystal in my life. Please call, I miss you! **8905.**

Fran Drescher Book Signing Sat Feb 17

You were standing in front of me in line to get book signed. You were wearing blk drk hvy jacket, grey pants, carrying shopping bag. I was wearing denim jacket, brn/gn. We chatted, would like to continue conversation. **8906.**

One Rainy Sunday Afternoon On 2/18

You: cute white guy with nice legs walking on Calif. St. towards Van Ness. Me: Asian wearing khaki pants and red cardinal standing on the corner of Calif. & Polk. We caught each other's eye. You glanced back 3 or 4 times wanted to say hi, but too shy. Let's get together! **8908.**

Bruno's 2/20 8:30 pm

You: handsome BM with WM friend, baseball cap. Me: WM with older friend. We said hello as we passed on the way to men's room. Wanted to look you a second time to exchange info but felt uncomfortable. Let's meet. **8903.**

Lone Star Sun. 2/18 Afternoon

You: Cute blond w/beautiful eyes and deep voice. Me: br/bl w/broad wearing plaid flannel shirt. I checked you out w/wh others on the patio. We made eye several times. I only managed to work up the nerve to say hi as I was leaving w/friends. Another shot? **9001.**

Darnell

We met at that sleazy place in the tendon on a Tuesday night. You took my number. You used it once. I wasn't home. I'd like another shot at it. Frank. **8903.**

Bus. 2/20 Vietnamese Lunch 12:30 pm

At the corner of Larkin & Eddy you had lunch. I was waiting at the door for take out. We are both Asian. You came to me, told me you were leaving. I can't stop thinking of you. Please call. **9002.**

Moca Java Man Fri 2/23 10 PM

We kept up long glances, but I had to leave with a friend. You: handsome, white guy, blue and white check, close cut hair. Me: tall guy in blk shirt leather coat. Let's meet. Call. **9003.**

Jan 27 White Mazda P/U Sks Silver Honda

Tried from New Year's Celebration to try to talk. But faked Wells Fargo auto teller long enough to watch your sexy blk spandex pants get into Honda w/breakfast. **9004.**

Into Yoga, Lost Your Phone Number

My headline in ad you saw. Friendship based on equal trust and respect. Me: 42. WM. Did not have voice message on line. Please call back. Want to talk to you. Thanks a lot. (Asian) **9005.**

Lone Star Sun. 2/25

Enjoyed watching you kick butt at pool. Sorry we didn't get to trade numbers. Would like a private game. **9006.**

Trader Joes 2/24 Emeryville

Couldn't take my eyes off you. Followed you from pasta to cheese. You: Drk hr, 6', handsome, cute smile. Me: grey hr, handsome. Shy but managed to say "Never get out of here for under \$100." Call me. **9007.**

Khun Phoa 2/19

You: handsome, young, Asian dining w/friend. Me: mature, grey hr, also dining w/friend. Eyes met across the room like to see you again. **9008.**

Sat Feb 22 1 PM Near Cala On 16th Street

You: short drk hair, w/newly-grown beard, blk jacket/leather sleeves, going toward Castro. Me: drk hair, moustache, blk light jacket. We looked back several times. Let's meet. **9009.**

1/86-EB-JM Park 7:30 PM

You were carrying a miniature rose bush. I was standing behind you and ask you about your plant. I was taken by your beautiful eyes. Me: 5'10", 190, brn/bln, moustache and beard. I would like to know you. Wanna have coffee? **9011.**

1808 Club On Saturday Night

To the big dick! I was not hot shaved balls. I enjoyed stimulating your cock w/my hand and mouth. Your erection looked great as you walked around naked and hard! What an exhibitionist! Want to play again? **9012.**

Roman?

Was that you driving down Dolores Sat. 3/2? I was in green Toyota w/a friend. Whoever you are, you're cute. Call me. **9101.**

Patio Cafe, 2/18, 1pm

You were with two friends. I at the next table with one. Our eyes met many times. **8905.**

Symphony Fantastique Sat Mar 2

You in jacket/tee, me in green shirt & black jeans. Before concert we exchanged glances & smiles across lobby. You left briefly and returned wearing glasses. Saw each other at intermission, but you were w/someone. Would like to talk. **9102.**

Mike Wed 2/14

Met you briefly on Valentine's Day at Lion's Pub. You on your way out with female friend. Ran into you again outside. Too stunned to ask for your number. Would like to get together again. **8907.**

Boston Market 3/3 2PM

You: large, husky man at back corner table, glasses (green jacket), big tan boots. Me: glasses, blue dress shirt, tie, brown hair. We kept looking at each other at the same time, several times. I looked at my watch before you left. Must meet you! **9103.**

Stud 1/31, Jocko Speaks

How much worse will it get, you guys were pretty bad that night. But I must admit a lot of fun. Want to go to a party? Give me a call. **9104.**

You: Handsome GBM on J-Church, 2/28 6PM

You had an SF center shopping bag and we kept looking at each other. Me: GWM, SGP, hairy lower lip, beret. I kicked myself for not saying hello. I'd love to go w/you. Or at least talk. Call me Mark. **9105.**

Diamond Hts.-Lamp Day

Met you at Diamond Hts. shopping center 2/29. Missed you 1/2 hour. I was late. Plz call. I can come to see you in San Mateo. Mission. **9106.**

3/1 about 1PM

U dark hair, stache, cowboy boots. U passed Castro Theatre. I whistled. U turned, said "Thank you." I said "You're a handsome man." Continued u/p. Me: tall, dark hair, stache, blue flt shirt, down vest, like to pursue this. Lunch drink? **9107.**

Pendulum 1/27 Sat Night

We exchanged glances across the crowded room and lifted our drinks in recognition. You blk back, goatee w/a warm enchanting smile. Me: pat-terned vest, enchanted. **9122.**

Loale's Barber Shop

Jimmy. I was having beard trim. You waited patiently, days later I received your message. Plz call. **9123.**

Yellow VW At 20th/Noe Fri 3/1 6:15PM

We were lost, you helped me (blonde, t-shirt, jeans, grey Honda). I should have asked your name and *. Let's talk. **9108.**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP M-M

I Know You're Out There Somewhere...

33, 5'8", 155, masculine, hairy guy, 5'12" & goatee, rough and tumble yet very romantic. Seeks fun masculine guy same age & body size preferred. Ready for relationship with great guy. **8909.**

You're One In A Million

A true class act. A man of physical, mental, and spiritual strength. I'm a gym fit, 42yo, GWM, bearded with shaved head and big dick. I love music, literature, and hung versatile guys under 30 yo. **8910.**

Sexy Buddhist Boy

Sell seeking attractive man of substance, purposeful, generous, spiritual-y directed, with a taste for irony. 27-40, I'm 34, lean, attractive, young, 5'10", 140, grn eyes, into yoga, cycling, theater and the world around me. **8911.**

HIV+ Mexican Boyfriend Wanted

Attractive, athletic, tall, trim, freckled. Anglo with beautiful body seeks sexy, slender, healthy Mexican guy. **8926.**

Hands On

Hung, HIV+, GWM, seeks GWM for possible relationship. Bl OK S/B in shape under 50. **8914.**

Look No Further

GWM, 33, 5'8", seeking GWM for good times and good conversation. Smoker & social drinker OK. Me: healthy, HIV+, with nice body & looks & personality to match. Your good personality w/weight comparable to height. **8913.**

HIV+, Athlete's Social For Singles

Wanna meet hot, healthy, HIV+, gym boys that are single? We do exist! If you wish to meet, date, romance, or just play with out fear, call to find out about this social. **8916.**

Seeking Bottom HIV+

Bl WM, 6'2", great shape, HIV+, 35, shy, but sexually aggressive top, looking for attractive guy, 18-35, HIV+, for sex and romance. **8917.**

Heavy Set WM Seeking Sincere Asian

Recently single WM, 6'3", 275, * looking for sincere GWM under 40. Likes movies, dinner, quiet times with right person. Prefer top but versatile OK. **8918.**

Looking For A Nice Guy

Gay Eurasian, 6'1", 260, * very handsome, inter. times with right person. ISO, GWM, 25-35, please be honest & sincere, looks are not important. You heart lit! Serious replies only. **8919.**

Wheelchair Confined

WM, 5'8 1/2", 180, 60's uses walk-er/wheelchair due to arthritis, swollen feet. Parkinson's seeking sympathetic companion, driver, sex buddy's. Age, race not important. Asian under 25 is a plus. LTR possible. **8920.**

Seeking GWM Big And Thick

Very attr, GWM, 40's, 5'10", 165, HIV+, in very good shape, smooth body, nice cock. Seeks GWM, 46 to 65, HIV+, with back and a thick cock who likes to lay back and be serviced for hours (you will not be disappointed, I promise). **8921.**

Intimacy Required In Wint Creek

Tall, slender, handsome, bearded, loving, caring, intelligent. GWM, 51, HIV+. Need to share life both the good and bad times, with someone who cares about the quality of life, and other people. **8922.**

Well Educated GWM

I'm 34 yo, HIV-, 5'4", 140, well humored, soft spoken, mild tempered. Enjoys Star Trek, plants, weight lifting, driving, painting. Seeking friendship LTR with White, Latino, or Black men, 25-50, ND/NS. Wants a guy who believes sex is the spice in a relationship and knows the main course. Science-minded men a+. SF residents only. **8923.**

Boy Wants To Meet Daddys

Me: GWM, 5'11", 170, HIV+, 31 yo. Looking for total top daddys only. Chest hair is mine. I'm kind of shy, love to cook and watch movies at home. Love cuddling & kissing. Older daddys preferred 40-56. **8924.**

Mature Dad Seeks Son

Dad is 27, 5'8", 160, dominant and can be firm but considerate master as well as daddy to an 18-45, glding, sexy, boy who enjoys company of a more mature man, both in/out of bed. Ongoing pld. **8925.**

Looking For Love

Glding, GWM, 38, 6', 180 and HIV+. Seeks other glding positives for friendship and more. You must be glding and over age of 30-40. Please NS, ND. Give me a call, you will not regret it. **8912.**

One Regular Guy Seeks Another

GWM, 24, blk/bl, slim, attractive, professional, HIV+. Prefer coffee houses to bars. Looking to commit with mature, prof, handsome, articulate man. You should be self-assured, open to different opinions, able to communicate your own. Fetishes and fantasies neg. **9014.**

In Retirement But Not Sedentary

HIV-, likes good food & vodka. Intelligent conversation occasional quiet bars and friendship, music, theatre. **9017.**

Young Man Wanted

GWM, late 40's, X-88, seeks young man for limited LTR w/travel, housing, dinners. Prefer student. No drugs. Exceptional only considered. No \$\$. **9020.**

Hard Body Seeks Same

Sexy GWM, 6'3", 190, NS, ND, 35 into working out, outdoors, looking to meet GWM, 25-35, who like me, is in great shape, HIV+, works out and values honesty and communication. **8915.**

Seeking Lifemate/Companion

In CA who would be interested in creating a home w/a former resident. GWM, early 30's, 5'8", 140, brn/bln, clean shaven, bottomless, NS. Eclectic, intellectual, love animals, the arts, travel & massage. ISO GWM, top w/similar interests. **9021.**

Huge Muscular Top Wanted

Handsome, athletic, muscular, in shape. GWM, 35, 5'10", 185, blk/bl, prof. Seeks tall, muscular, handsome, be athletic, quick outgoing and fun. **9022.**

Humor, Creative, Uninhibited

Relationship potential interests? Let's meet! Very attractive, masculine, creative prof, GWM, 40, 5'8", 140, muscular, defined, slim mod hairy body, short beard, brn/bl, balding on top, HIV+, been very healthy, Jewish, interested in NS, prof, GWM, 35, who's stable, in shape, financially secure enjoys laughing, romance, creative safe sex, nudity, spirituality, drives, beach, travel, cooking, arts, friends, Lucy, Call. **9023.**

Kalko II

GWM, 30, very cute, intelligent, caring, seeks cute Japanese, GWM, 21-37, for friendship or more. Interested in modern rock, movies, cooking, dancing, and romantic evenings. Deito Shyuu. **9024.**

Santa Rosa Area Man To Man

Me: Asian/Pacific Islander, 38, 5'10", hairy chad, mustache, goatee, muscular, masculine, in shape, horny, athletic, down to earth county boy, seeks man who is similar for adventure, exploring, dating. 25-40yo. **9025.**

Sensuous Scrop Seeks Muscular Man

Me: Asian/Pacific Islander, 38, 5'10", 180, BB, blk hair, smooth olive skin, financially independent. You: BL, NS, top, well hung, 25-45, any race. I'm genuine guys who are into BB need response. Absolutely no rice queens please! **9030.**

Experimental Ad

Your emotional/mental profile is more valuable than your physical attributes. All races welcome. Try me: 46yo, GWM, 5'10", 160, HIV-, SF resident. **9026.**

Foot Of The Soul

Are you a shooting star, traveling alone? I'm a poet of the soul, prof, HIV+, healthy, passionate, bottom, looking not just for sex, a couple, but love without limits. Race is not important, although I'm a GWM my heart is latino y hablo español. You have gone beyond drugs & addictions, smoking OK. **9027.**

HIV: Craft Person Or Artist A-

Wanted for friendship & the sharing of creative interests. Skill level unimportant. Me: 39, 5'9", 155, GWM, masculine. You: thin to ave build, w/strong artistic interests. Anything else is open. **8925.**

Winter Storm

Shy, chubby, economically challenged bookworm seeks thin, chub chasing, Shakespearean, starving actor who looks in sword fights and in bed. **9015.**

A Positive Romance

Glding, prof, HIV+, healthy, 41yo, 5'8", 155, br/bl, trim, goate looking for very masculine, romantic guy, who enjoys all kinds of music, dancing (especially 2-step), romantic dinners, movies & working out, who's ready for a good stable relationship. **9018.**

Looking For Redheads 25-45ish

GWM, midwest, 37, 6'2", 215, drk hair, blk/gr eyes, very attractive. Love movies, books, music, cuddling, kissing. JO, 63. More top than bottom. Really like redheads. Be h/t w/pt or reasonably so. Looking for more than a 1 nighter. **9109.**

E Bay HIV+ Latin Top Wanted

Prefer Capricorn or Virgo, who smokes. GWM, HIV+, 33, blk/bl, 6'10", handsome widow in Concord area needs drk latino. **9018.**

Hopdrol Romantic

GWM, 42, 6', 185, drk hair/eyes, masculine, confident handsome, hairy, good build, enjoys hiking, bike rides, sunsets at the beach, candle light dinners, and long passionate kisses. I'm HIV+ but extremely healthy. You should be honest, stable, not scared of commitment and interested in a loving, nurturing relationship. **9029.**

Seeking E Bay Mass 30's Male, As, Thinning?

6'4", big guy, not too fat, hairy, honest, likes all sports, beer, workout, stay-in. Me: 5', 175, pretty boy, not too masc/ not too fem, South-east, stable, friendly, easy going, cute. 27yo. **9031.**

Japanese Teen Seeks Top

Handsome, young 30's, hairy, Japanese born, 5'7", 140, versatile, friendly, healthy, HIV+, seeks stocky WM for monogamous relationship. **9032.**

Asian Seeks GWM

Very handsome Filipino, 28yo, 5'10", 155, very smooth body, likes to cuddle. Looking for GWM, 25-35 only, outgoing, personality, mature, honest & sincere. Likes romantic evenings at home. Hung and hairy A+. **9034.**

Nice Guy Seeks Same

Attractive HIV+, 5'8", 155, stache, brn/bl, 43, top, quick witted, strong personality, enjoys going out & staying at home. Good company & fantastically loyal. Seeks partner, age 8, 185, stache, tall bottom, intense character, passionate, independent & fun loving. **9110.**

Seeking Sincerity In The City

Me: 33yo, GWM, brn/bl, 5'8", 190, glding, intlg, creative, down to earth, intlg, mature, great sense of humor, open to smile, sincere. U: 6'1", HIV+, any race, 25-40, character more imp than looks. You do not need to be perfect because I'm not. **9111.**

Quest-Swag Daddy Needs G/W/A Top

For April relocation to So CA resort home. Want live in lover/companion. Healthy HIV+. Beautiful house. You: 28-39, responsible. Drink, smoke OK. Love hot sex, good times. Let's care for each other. Me: submissive, generous GWM. **9112.**

Seeking Kind Husband

GWM, 5'9", 190, brn/bl & stache. Seeks men over 65' for friendship or possible relationship. I am very honest, romantic & sincere. I am not into bar scene, or liars. I like gardening, music & cooking. **9114.**

GWM 30 HIV+, KS

Looking for 40+ who loves kissing, cuddling, outdoors, home time, colts, travel. Has short or willing to get hair cut short, stache, prefer light sm & drink. ND. Sex not important. **9115.**

Seek Young Bl Mexican Top

Discrete, nice WM, 46, seeks younger spanish speaking Mexican, nice guy for regular meetings. Safe sex. No \$\$. ND. **9116.**

Beautiful Quality Asian Top

Honest, loving, caring, 26yo, 5', 100, 6'1/2 uncut, HIV, seeking GWM 18-36, HIV-, clean shaven, NS, ND, bottom. **9117.**

Just The Average Nice Guy

GWM, 30, 5'8", 140, into long walks w/dog. Down to earth, HIV+, good health seeks GWM. No bull shit. Just health guys or who knows. Let's see. **9118.**

Glding GWM

6', 170, 48yo, br/bl, HIV-, in shape, looking for masc, stocky-built, Asian/Hispanic (5'5"-5'9"), looking for LTR w/ancure guy. **9018.**

Single and Still Alone

GWM seeking GWM 35-50, HIV- who would like to share in a monogamous relationship. If you're ready to quit cruising the bars and looking for a guy, enjoy the good times. Give me a call. Smoker & social drinker OK. **9120.**

BarTalk

are FREE

You must use this form to submit ads. Use only the space provided. Do not attach additional paper or text. Deadline for ads is Wednesday, 6 pm, for the following week's issue. New ads will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. We reserve the right to edit ads.

Select One: ☐ Parting Glances ☐ Seeking Relationship M-M ☐ Seeking Adventure M-M ☐ Seeking Relationship W-W ☐ Seeking Adventure W-W ☐ Fetishes ☐ Couples ☐ Other

Name _____ Day Phone No. _____ Eve. Phone No. _____
 Address _____ Apt No. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Write your headline here: _____ (stop here)
 Write the rest of the ad here: _____ (stop here)

Mail to: BarTalk, 395 Ninth St., SF CA 94103

BAR TALK

Cream In Pants

You. This muscle guy, 18-35, defined, veiny arms, and/or waistboard abdominals. Love anal sex, slightly anorexic, prefer getting fucked, hard body, other sex fantasies possible. Me: Fit, muscle top, bent on domination, good times, fucker. **8931.**

GMM Top Sought By HIV+ GMM
36, 170, 5'11", healthy. Tell me how you want me to take it. **8930.**

Aussie Cock Needs Ass
Walnut Creek Aussie boy, 32, 6', 150#, 8', cut straw/blond, hazel, HIV- NS, no. versatile. Seeking bottom/versatile fuck stud(s), 18-35, for nighttime hot, sticky fun. **8929.**

Petite Bottoms
Seeking petite and thin, under 5'6", bottom, under 45yo a definite +. Me: GMM, 44, 5'9", S & P, balding, 175#, 7, neut. **8937.**

Horny Butt
Seeks frequent raw plowing. Me: 43, 6', 150#, 8', buzzed/balding, HIV+, smoker. You: decent shape, HIV+, smoker. Kink? **8933.**

Smooth, Straight, 18-21
WM, 40's, balding, seeks horny young straight or bi male(s) 18-21, only Asian or Latin + a Be smooth and skinny/no working out. I have straight porn videos. No recip. Get your rocks off. **8934.**

I Love Small To Medium Cocks
Gilding, WM, 6'2", early 30's, bottom wants you. I like cuddling, dancing, cooking, videos, the ocean, receiving spankings. I'm for real. I hope to hear from you! **8935.**

Uniform
I'm looking for you in a uniform. My turn on's are Police, Army, Marine, Navy or Cadet in leather. I'm 44, 6'1", 150#, and if you under 45 and same, let's put our fantasy to work. **8936.**

East Bay Deep Throat
Handsome, tall, slim, masculine, friendly, 37yo, clean shaven, blue-eyed, sword swallower, will serve 18-35yo, handsome, in-shape, horny guys. Deep fuck my velvet throat, pound away til explosive release. **8938.**

White Boys Wanted
By a very handsome Persian male in his 20's for fun and possibly more. You: 25-35, WM, with great looks, body and personality. I'm boyishly built, interesting and selective. Sexual chemistry a must. **8939.**

Sucker For Men In Uniform
I'm 48 with a weakness for men in uniform—especially cops & firemen—will service all. No reciprocation expected. Just lean back and relax and let me worship you. Comfortable surroundings. **8940.**

Scottish Ladie Recently Moved From Philly
GMM, 39, 6'4", 175#, bl/bk/gray hair, HIV-, enjoy cooking, old movies, beach. 2 stepen cut times looking for buddies to hang out with 30-50 yrs, 5'10" and up, NS in shape with similar interests. **8942.**

Double Adventure
In shape, versatile, 5'11", hung big needs other men (20's-30's), well built, hairy body, with a big firm hairy bubble butt to eat and fuck. **8943.**

Looking For HIV+ Latin Top
For friendship and sexual encounters. I'm WM, I'm hairy, h+ eyes, 170#, 50, HIV+, healthy, passionate, attractive, bottom. I can take all you can give me, love kissing and holding, gentle, intense love of life, spiritual, professional. You: any age, intelligent, in shape, employed, want to be a long term survivor, passionate, love sex. **8945.**

Heavyset WM Btm Sngl AM Top
WM, bottom, 6'3", 175#, looking for dominant GAM top. You won't be disappointed. Are you man enough for me? **8937.**

Ass Lickin'
I'm a GMM and a hairy top who wants to try being on the bottom. If you're a gilding muscular top, 28-35, I'd like to eat your ass. Have rim chair. Train me slow, sir. **8947.**

Foreskin Muncher
Big guy (6'5", 220#) craves about that little something extra you have. Have your overhang chewed, nibbled, sucked and tugged for your delight and mine. Be fit, hung and ready to surrender it. **8948.**

Hot Boxing Action
Is your fantasy a hot, private boxing match? Muscular 6'3", 180#, stud visiting this week has the equipment to make your dream come true. Novices welcome. Muscular bottoms a +. **8951.**

Exhibitionist And Voyeur
HIV+, WM, 30's, healthy, seeks younger guys or couples who enjoy watching, being watched, playing with toys and oral. Like smoker and drinker. OK. Prefer my place in Oakland. **8952.**

Hot Hard Top Wants Your Butt
GMM, 40 yo, 5'6", 140#, w/ athletic build, hairy chest, brn/bm, clean shaven, will plow you good and deep with nice hard tool always ready. If you are GMM/GLM, in good shape, 25-35yo, must be clean shaven ready for fun & fucking! **8946.**

Eat Me
Masculine hairy beak, 43, 5'5", 135#, HIV-, with hot crotch seeks hungry, talented, buddy for long hot sessions of oral worship and service. Verbal, imaginative, dominant. Marin can travel. **8953.**

Chubby Sex Chaser
33yo, big guy (5'10", 250#) seeks lean, cocky, stud who's man enough to satisfy me. I like it long, hard, and sweaty. Are you up to it? **8950.**

FFB Or Versatile Anal Erotic
Very in shape young 50's, 5'10", 150#, into FF, dildo, dilaton depth, long and slow. **89035.**

Nudity & Eroticism
Gym-toned attractive Asian, 35, 5'9", 150# seeks gilding, 25-35, for erotic massage, body building, all fantasies, light b/d, stripping, 30 toys, exhibitionism & more. Give or take? **89038.**

Asian Men

50yo seeks good time w/understanding & compatible Asian male. One step at a time. I'll be on call for you. Layback or take charge. Evenings & weekends. See ya. **8939.**

Sing Bottoms For Daytime Sex
Masculine, well-defined Italian seeks daytime fuck buddy. You should be attractive, lean, NS, under 40 and an eager bottom. **8940.**

Dad Wants Some Ass
I want to look, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, probe, spank & screw your hot and hungry butt. Me: attract, GMM, 46, 6'5", 250#, football player build. You: attract, GMM, 18-35, slim, smooth-mod body hair and nice buns. **8941.**

Big Men
If you are seeking, hefty, or pleasantly fat, then I'm interested in possibly meeting you. GMM 5'11", 235#, 42yo, is looking for sexy big men for sensual encounters. **8951.**

Masc GLM Seeks Effeminate GMM
Masc, GLM, 40, 6', 165#, dk hr & moustache, mod hairy. Looking for younger 21+, effeminate, GMM, GMM, who is very affectionate and enjoys giving stee, sensual/oral service to me all over. **8942.**

Live Outside San Francisco?
I want to meet men who live outside SF to visit. I'm seeking new environments, new adventures, new friends. I'm muscular & friendly. **8949.**

Jackstar Wrestling
Handsome, muscular, GMM seeks others turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fantasies and skill levels. No heavy rough housing. Just good, clean, sweaty fun. **8943.**

Wanna Fight?
Boxing, wrestling naked, bar fights w/study guy. Be manly aggressive, twisted & over seeded like me. **89136.**

Thick Leather Belts And Boots
Can I lick yours? I'm 33, boyishly handsome, great body, into bondage, leather, weightlifting belts, and boots. Cops, cowboys and guys with muscles especially welcome. **8944.**

Young Asian Bottom
19yo, GAM, 5'4", 130#, boyish looking, seeking handsome, masculine, in-shape, white or hispanic, muscle men to top me. Bring a friend to share my hot mouth and butt, if you can. You must be under 30, HIV-, ND, NS. **89052.**

Thickness Is My Weakness
If you're 5'6" to 6'9" and thick, masculine, BM, HM, AM, WM, call. No lems. Good humor men. Like music (I like control) but no phoneys, be for real. **89056.**

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Thirst Male

Has 6-pack for men into water sports! Mature deep throat expert will give you the satisfaction you need! **8954.**

Your Hot But/My Tongue
And long bushy moustache. A ride you'll never forget. Me: Hot, GMM, 38yo, 6', 160#, brn/blt. You: Hot and ready. **89046.**

European Travel Partner Wanted By GMM
Share expense 5'8", 100#, 64, up to one month. Italy, Greece, other possibilities. Sex would be good. I'm HIV-, top. Speak some Italian, French, & have traveled in Europe. Broad interests. Healthy & active. Like art, opera, beaches, trains, backroads. **89053.**

Young Asian Bottom
19yo, GAM, 5'4", 130#, boyish looking, seeking handsome, masculine, in-shape, white or hispanic, muscle men to top me. Bring a friend to share my hot mouth and butt, if you can. You must be under 30, HIV-, ND, NS. **89052.**

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Total Bottom Seeks Dominant Top

Total bottom seeks well endowed Latinos, Asians, & Filipinos only. I'm HIV-, Must be a total dominant top. You must be 25-45yo, and in good shape. Your place only. **89144.**

Master/Trainer Needed
34yo, tall, in shape, WM seeks gilding, in shape, master/trainer to train me & expand my limits through bondage & discipline. Sincere & eager to serve. **89145.**

South Bay Spankings
Bend over & drop your shorts, bad boy! If you're 18-30 w/a smooth round ass, your big brother (39, WM 5'9", 210#) wants a crack at it. Also open to gloved finger or dildo play, if you are. **89146.**

Seeking Uncut George
You answered my ad "Seeking Uncut Fun." your phone # was out of. Your 48yo, 5'9", mod hairy. Me: 6'4", 40yo, uncut. GMM. Let's try again. **89147.**

Bearded Submissive Bearded Bear Cub
42, 5'9", 230#, brn/blt, mod hairy, very gilding seeks dominant male real men for safe fun. Have a lower, not looking for another, just sex. Age, race, size, looks unimportant but older, hairy, blue collar types +. Men of color w/attitudes are a turn on. **89148.**

So What? I Have An Aural Flaw
What can I say. French, Spanish, German accents turn me on. I melt to the lullaby sounds of Mediterranean and Asia & I totally lose it when young "b" boys drop their slang. I'm a well-endowed, healthy, 42yo, Cuban sex hungry, catch boys under 40. **89149.**

Hot Handsome Bi Oral Dominant Top
Looking for oral and anal submissive. Into dido, senior or young slender, petite only. No masc men. I am fit & insatiable. **89151.**

Wanted Asian Boy Toy
18-30's, in shape, submissive bottom like humiliation, bondage, like your mouth, tits, ass used by very aggressive, handsome, in shape, 45yo Sicilian dad. Call when you need it. **89152.**

Let's Take Turns!
Hot, nasty, positive, healthy, versatile, top, 33, wants to meet similar, under 40, in reasonable shape for mutual fucking, humiliation, W/S, spit, etc. Let's party & go nuts! No inhibitions allowed. Nasty boys only need apply! **89153.**

Masculine Top Seeks Butch Bottom
Gilding, 35yo, GMM, top, 5'8", 160#, brn/gm/stach, tight gym toned body looking for hot daytime sex. You be in shape, masc, 20-35. No commitment, just great sex. **89154.**

Feed Me
Sexy & Horny, 30ish, cm eater. Recip OK, HIV+ OK, S/F/E, BA, weekdays only. Asian, Hispanic, or Black. Uncut only. **89155.**

Big Men
GMM, 5'11", 235#, handsome, hung seeks big, husky, hefty & pleasantly fat men for sensual, romantic encounters. If you're a big man, I'm interested. **89156.**

Third Man Wanted
My very best friend wants to be plugged by 2 hunks. He also wants to share this dark, handsome, very muscular Asian Bodybuilder/prince w/another cute bottom man/boy. You trim or muscular, attractive w/ playful uninhibited attitude, outgoing, horny, gilding guys of all colors welcome. **89157.**

I Need Servicing
Hot young stud wanted w/talented mouth & deep throat who would love to service me for hours while I lick back. I'm 6'3", 215#, batch, nicely hairy & hung! **89158.**

Foreskin Servicing Required

HIV-, WM w/ample foreskin, 5'11", 40ish, 160#, br/bk/smooth, 7" uncut wants to kick back and have his foreskin serviced, chewed, stretched, doxed, slow fr til I cum. You: 18-50, HIV-, Attr. w/insatiable foreskin appetite. **89159.**

Senior Citizen Wanted 65 Or Older
By straight WM, 55, HIV-, Teach me how to suck cock. I'll be your on call cock sucker or fuck my mouth, but you must agree to wear a rubber at all times, but will lick & suck your balls. **89160.**

Horny Asian
Cut GAM, 28, 5'5", 145#, HIV- seeks 1 or group GMM under 40, in shape, disease/drug free, for hot sex. Let's have fun. **89161.**

Try Anything Once
5'4", WM, 54yo, stache, HIV-, seeking experienced hungry expert to worship my 7" mushroom cock. Also work my balls round and hard! Play w/my little hairy ass. Expand all my limits w/a deep prostate massage. If you like, bring a friend, live alone, my place. **89162.**

Naked Houseboy/Servant/Slave Seeks Position
I need to do your housework/chores, take care of all your personal needs, while being kept naked and shackled. Reward me w/paddlings, whippings or other tortures. I'll attack in shape. Me: WM, 36, 5'11", 185#, attractive, in shape. **89062.**

E Bay GMM
Sks TV for JO, dirty talk, mutual cock/ball worship, age, looks, size not important. Late night, my place only. Drink, smoke, party a must. Love of cock to after lunch at the Occidental. **89163.**

Attentive
Wanted WM cut, w/big clean feet. Get naked, relax and let hot 50's sizzling tongue make you feel so good. **89162.**

Young Pipe/Cigar Men Financial Distress
31yo, 6', 175#, buzzcut, would like to meet other young prof into pipes/cigars, and Let's fire up a briar or robus to after lunch at the Occidental. **89163.**

Prolonged Chastity/Cock Bondage
I enjoy weeks w/o cumming. Seek similar for mutual challenge, support. I also play w/bound cock-possible rope bondage, psych or sensual domination. Safe Versatile WM 49, 5'8", 165#, athl, musc, shaved head, beard. **89164.**

Bad Attitude—Good Fuck
Hot, hung, musc, musc, Italian top man needs a hot, in-shape bottom, muscles, tattoos, goatees, small dicks & bubble butts drive me nuts. Age, race, looks are not important. **89165.**

Asshole Fetishists
Hardcore rimmers sought for tongue & eat hot hole while I sit on my rim seat. Mature & perverted only. **89166.**

Leather Dad & Slave Boy
Into CS, FF, Anal, BD. Seeking 3-way & other, couplings. Trim & hairy. **89167.**

Is The Name Of An Ivy League School
Its shaped like a fruit from Central America. It tastes & smells sweet. Its source is a big bushy tree behind named Rusty. Guess what this is about & get Rusty's picture (in a hot bubble). **89173.**

Family Fun
Want to watch real life brothers or father/son getting it on. Or maybe join in. Videos OK too. Please call. **89167.**

COUPLES
GW Couples Wanted! By handsome GMM, clean-cut, smooth-skinned, boy next door, 28. I want to be your Live Sex Toy. Let me fulfill all your fantasies. **89168.**

GW Couple Seek GW Couple
For friendship and sex. We're both top or bottom. We like to watch & enjoy. Believe us it will be worth your wild. **89169.**

Three Men In A Tub
2 gilding GMM lovers w/ facial hair, 40's, HIV+, seek adventurous individual(s) for hot times beginning in a hot tub. Top, bottom, versatile. **89170.**

GMM Couple Seek Masc Men
Top: 63, 6'3", 225#, br/bm, very hairy, bearded. Bottom: 42, 5'9", 230#, brn/blt, mod hairy, full thick trimmed beard. Both HIV+ & Bear types. Seek versatile real men over 30 to visit us in Costa Costa. Looks, size, race unimportant. No phoneys. No game players or phones. **89171.**

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The IML Saga Continues

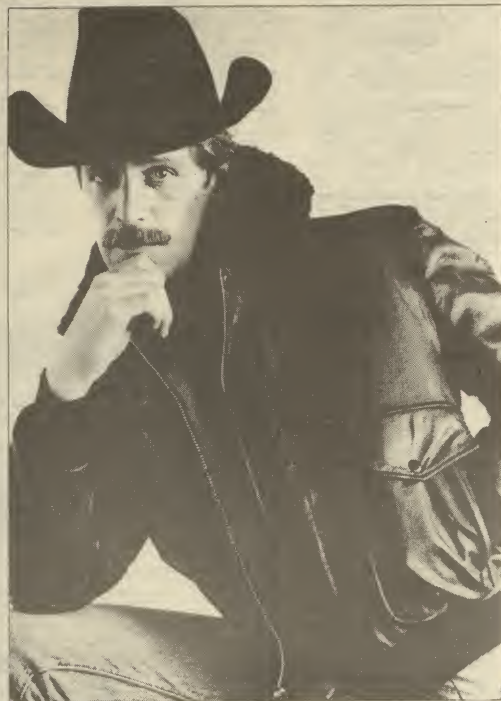
Exactly 70 days from today on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-27, the 1996 International Mr. Leather will be chosen in Chicago.

The reservations are pouring in to IML for the \$125 weekend package (800/ 545-6753), and the rooms are going fast at the recently refurbished Congress Hotel. You can reserve the \$89 single or double rooms there by calling their toll-free number (800/635-1666), but be sure to mention IML for the special rate.

In addition to a reserved seat at the contest itself on Sunday, May 26, the weekend package entitles you to admission to all official events, an official 1996 IML T-shirt and official "Etienne" poster, free shuttle buses to all venues, and a video highlights tape by Catalina of the 1996 contest. There are all sorts of official and unofficial parties throughout the weekend, including the Home Town Party by outgoing IML Larry Everett. This year, the best of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will be featured at the party.

The IML winners have produced an enviable legacy with winners from throughout the U.S. and overseas. And in this particular part of the leather community, San Francisco's participation has not been without distinction. No other city or leather community can claim four winners except San Francisco, who won it the first year (1979) with David Kloss and again in 1981 with Marty Kiker. In 1985 Patrick Toner snatched the gold ring, and again in 1992, Lenny Broberg triumphed.

On May 18, 1979, IML was born at the Radisson Hotel, and there were only seven contestants total. In the 1980 event also at the Radisson, the first-ever Mr. SF Leather, Mike Martin, was in the final group that numbered almost 20. By the time Marty Kiker entered (1981) as an independent, there were almost 40 contestants. And in 1985, Patrick Toner competed against 46 contestants. Lenny Broberg faced 51 other leathersmen the year he won, and IML, which was staged annually



David Kloss, representing the Brig Bar, was the first-ever Intl. Mr. Leather in 1979. He is currently a resident of Austin, Texas, and a fundraising AIDS activist.

on Mother's Day at the Park West after 1980, was later changed to the Memorial Day weekend and has been staged then ever since.

Three foreign leathersmen have won the title: in 1980, Patrick Brooke of Sydney, Australia; 1987, Thom Karasch of Hamburg, Germany; and 1993, Henri Ten-Have of Amsterdam. Surprisingly, no Canadian leathersman has taken the sash north of the border, but needless to say, there have been Canadian runners-up.

Each year, our city has been represented by at least two contestants, and in 1987, there was a whopping total of seven San Francisco leathersmen in the competition! Convention people in Chicago proudly tout the fact that with the influx of some 3,000 or more leather people for the annual event, the city's coffers are enriched by over \$1 million.

In past years, the host hotels have concurrently scheduled non-leather events on their premises, sometimes to the consternation of those groups. One year, it was a 2,000-strong Pakistani weekend-long wedding party. In 1980, the N.O.W. march delegates were ensconced in the Radisson Hotel; those women sure got an eyeful. Another year, it was a black mother/daughter weekend. The local high school senior proms in the hotels evoke the most humorous encounters.

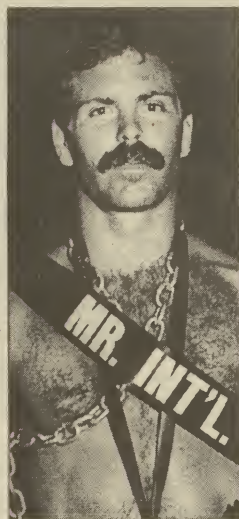
It's always a fun weekend in Chicago, so if you're entertaining the idea of attending this year, don't wait. As the IML promoters are fond of saying: "Don't be left out of the largest leather event in the world!" And it is interesting to note that a lot of people who travel to Chicago that weekend don't actually attend the contest at all. The lobby is always a giant leather cruising area, and it stays full all day and all night. Except for a few

Chicago dress ordinances that are somewhat restrictive, it's a weekend you'll never forget as old acquaintances are renewed and many new ones are made.

Regional state, city, bar and club leather contests are happening right now. In San Francisco, Daddy's Bar is first out with Mr. Daddy's Leather '96 to be selected on Wednesday, March 20. The very next night, the SF-Eagle will be choosing Mr. SF Eagle Leather '96, and on Tuesday, March 26, Mr. Edge Leather '96 will be selected. Each bar is awarding a \$300 cash prize and a title vest. In addition, there are some independent contestants and one business-sponsored contestant that I know of. The other "alleged" leather bars in SF have declined to participate...oh well! The winners of the three bar contests will compete on April 20 for the coveted Mr. San Francisco Leather title. The tickets are going fast. Have you got yours yet?

Somewhat laid back around ye olde campus last week. The biggest event was at Daddy's Bar, where Stud About Town George Carreras and Crew staged a beer bust on Thursday, March 7. It was wall-to-wall with leather and beer-buster bodies, and an array of door prizes was offered for the \$1 raffle tickets (and prizes from heretofore untapped businesses, which surprised a lot of people). When all was said and done, some \$903 was raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund. I hear George and Crew are planning another fundraiser real soon. Does all this activity portend a culmination with a title? Stay tuned.

On Sunday, March 10, the Cycle Runners MC hosted the beer bust at the Eagle with menacing clouds overhead, but somewhere else Frank Naccaratto was doing a rain dance and the drops



The late Marty Kiker, an independent contestant who was a bartender at the Phoenix Bar on Castro, took the IML title in 1981. He later moved to Santa Fe, N.M., to build ski lodges.

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Photo: Mr. Marcus

Eventures in Leather

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, March 14

Choosing Mr. June 1997 at the Eagle's Bare Chest contest tonight at 2200. The Knights of Malta will also be staging a \$6 beer bust, 2100-2400, and food (\$2) will also be available. Win \$100 cash and a spot on the 1997 calendar.

Night of Comedy & Cabaret at Eichelberger's at 2100, with a \$5 donation to benefit St. Anthony's Foundation. Featuring Danny Williams, Donna Sachet, Lurch and Derek Spreckelmeyer to name a few. Billed as a night of "just plain fun." No auction, 50/50 raffle or drawings.

Basket contest at The Edge at 2200. Beer bust for \$6, 2000-2400, and \$1 raffle tickets. Winner gets \$100 and a photo session. Hosted by Danny Williams.

Friday, March 15

Castro's newest literary/photo salon, Wings (4077 18th), adds the fabulous art of Teddy of Paris in his first-ever American show. Run by the founder of *Drummer* magazine, John Embry, this place can only be headed for success. Check it out! On April 1, Bill Ward's work will be on display - don't miss it!

Free HIV anonymous testing at Blow Buddies (933 Harrison) upstairs, 2200 until half-past midnight. Take advantage of this public service, courtesy of the AIDS Health

Project and Blow Buddies.

Weekend, March 16-17

Pegasus MOC St. Patrick's overnight run to Monterey and environs will cost \$65 for members/\$75 guests. Leaving from Castro Station Bar at 0900 sharp. The fee includes dinner Saturday night, double-room occupancy, hot tub and continental brunch Sunday. Call Rick at 368-5753 for invite/questions.

Saturday, March 16

Golden State Gay Rodeo Association beer bust at the SF Eagle, 2000-2300. No price quoted. Check out all the horses in front!

Beer bust for Municipal Court Judge candidate Kay Tsenin at Daddy's, 1400-1800, sliding scale fee \$6-\$10. Emceed by Steve Gaynes and Skeeter Wildman. We need Kay on the bench! Support this event and vote, vote!

Bears of SF beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900, for only \$6. Benefiting hospitalized bears' Easter baskets.

Sunday, March 17

It's St. Pat's birthday, so join the GDIs for the spring equinox beer bust, \$8. Irish stew and salad, plus GDI shenanigans. See Phyllis do pratfalls and wear green! Pacific Bears L/MC beer bust at Daddy's, 1300-1500, with a 50/50 raffle. No price or other details furnished. Will somebody in that club learn how to write a press release?

It'll cost you \$25 to roast Peter Fiske of The 15 Association at Eichelberger's at 1800. Sumptuous dinner, entertainment, champagne and "surprises." Sound bites by Alan Selby. Call 863-4177 for reservations.

Wednesday, March 20

Mr. Daddy's Leather '96 contest emceed by Daddy Irwin Kane begins promptly at 2100. Win a \$300 cash prize, a title vest and compete for Mr. SF Leather on April 20! Be there. This is a first!

Leather Buddies cavort at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules, especially *no cologne!* Vigilant sniff person on duty and the leather dress code in *full effect!* Butch pills highly recommended before you get there!

Thursday, March 21

Mr. SF-Eagle Leather '96 contest promptly at 2100. Winner gets a \$300 cash prize, a title vest and represents that bar at the Mr. SF Leather contest.

Michelle Handelman's masterpiece, *Blood Sisters*, a 77-minute film about leather dykes into S&M. Tonight and tomorrow night at the Roxie Cinema. Not to be missed. Call (510) 245-1709 for price, times and other details.

Tuesday, March 26

Mr. Edge Leather '96 contest at 2100. Another \$300 cash prize and title vest. Full details next week. ▼

never materialized. While it was disappointing that Frank wasn't there to do the "mike" honors, Ms. Della proved to be a quite adequate substitute.

Shall we do the dishes?

The acrid smell of sour grapes was pungent in certain quarters last week after the Imperial Coronation on Saturday, March 2. It's nauseating to have to hear/read that boring "it should have been" crap, but then, seasoned observers can only shrug their shoulders and ignore the whining.

Emperor Steve and Empress Cockatielia are off to a fine start, and everyone is looking forward to the coming investiture. (By the way, Steve is Emperor XXXIII, not XXXII, as erroneously reported here last week.) How pathetic to condemn title winners when they haven't even had a chance to prove themselves. Get a life!

Well, what a small community this is! A former major Southern California leather title holder was shocked to learn last Saturday that his older brother in Palm Springs had a gross encounter of the lewd kind with a certain 1987 San Francisco leather title holder. Said SF sash-wearer is considered a "sister" of the aforementioned former SoCal leather idol, but that could change to "sister-in-law" any day now! Does this incident prove the slogan, "incest is best"?

It's hard to believe, but it appears as though a couple of our bike clubs (well, the officers, at any rate) are in denial. I received 11 phone calls last week about resignations from two bike clubs (two in one and five in the other), yet last Sunday when I approached the officers of said clubs, they flatly stated that there were absolutely no resignations whatsoever. These denials were accompanied by a barely audible harrumph! Yeah, right. I guess what they are saying is that their club members are lying. Sad, isn't it? ▼



Photo: Joe Altman

One of the most popular IML winners, the late Patrick Toner, won the title in 1985. He was the only winner to appear on the front page of a major Chicago newspaper the next morning and was mobbed by admirers at O'Hare on his way back home.

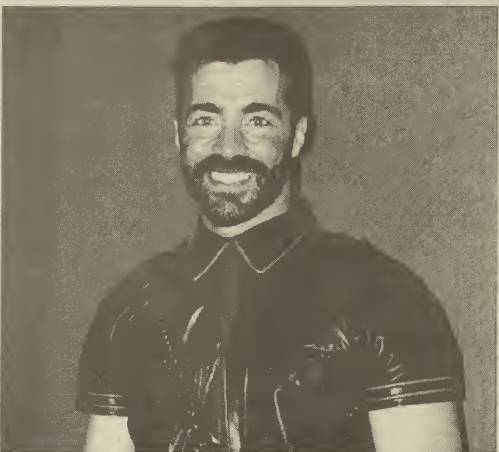


Photo: Mr. Marcus

IML '92 Lenny Broberg was the favorite contestant that year. He, like many of his predecessors, had a distinguished year with the title, and is still out there doing a great job.

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Whirlwind of Wonder



Rumors are ricocheting about the longevity of the Coconut Grove on Van Ness Avenue. It is pricey, true, but, as a special treat I recommend the Grove's Saturday matinee performance of the unusually clever revue, *Some Like it Cole!* It's as playfully swank as the club itself. Porterphiles will be especially pleased with the intricate storytelling medleys concocted by director Joe Lillis and arranger/accompanist Donald Wescoat, and neophytes will tumble to the wonders of Mr. Porter's witty, heart-felt words and stylish tunes. With dozens of songs presented in winsome fashion by Livia Genise, Linda McCulloch and Beth Wilmurt, the show is a whirlwind of wonder.

Although the fine drummer, David Brownell, was hidden behind his traps, I can attest to the cuteness of blond string bass player Terry Miller. Stick around afterward to greet the girls and catch Terry with his collar open. Mr. Porter would have said this view, as well as the show itself, were tops.

Some Like it Cole! runs throughout March at The Coconut Grove, 1415 Van Ness Avenue. Call 776-1616 for tickets and information. ▼

—John F. Karr

Roady Remembered

On Saturday, March 16, Kimo will be sponsoring a work day at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. A flower-bearing tree will be planted, and some of former Kimo's bartender Craig Roady's ashes will be scattered. Wear your grubbies. Work goes from 9 a.m. to noon, and lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. At 1 p.m. the tree planting will take place. For more information and/or to line up transportation, please stop by Kimo's for a map of how to get to the Grove.

Come out of the closet: yes, it's almost that time of year again when macho daddies transform into dazzling damsels. I could only be talking about the fabulous Closet Ball 1996, which will take place on Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m. at Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave.). Tickets are available from the Giraffe (1131 Polk St.) and Marlena's (Hayes near Octavia). For more information, please call 864-0673. (Could the rumor that a certain aging leather scribe is planning to compete in a lace-up corset with a black chiffon overlay really be true? Now that would be a *noir* vision, indeed.)

On Wednesday, March 20, at 8 p.m., Kimo's will be hosting the first Imperial Board Meeting and on Wednesday, March 27, at 8 p.m., the first Court Meeting, with a salute to handsome new Emperor Steve Vallone and radiant Empress Cockatielia. Even though I was pulling for Ms. Cowgirl Vera, Cockatielia injected a note of glamour and youth into the coronation proceedings.

Birthday greetings go out from these well-oiled lips to Dolly Dale on March 23, Empress Ginger on March 26 and, of course, T.J. on Palm Sunday, March 31. No ages were given, but if these three combined the years between them, they could throw their own bicentennial. Linda's Phone Booth (1398

South Van Ness Ave.) is serving up that scrumptious Little Kurt on the plank for your delectation: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sun. 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Plus, the ever-popular Bobby Pace and the ever-lovely Bobby Gobert. So do drop by for a libation and meet some new and interesting people. ▼

Goldfield & Koldewyn Together Again

Set your VCRs to record *Melrose Place* because Monday nights now belong to Scrumby Koldewyn and Cindy Goldfield and their cabaret show at the Plush Room in the York Hotel. Goldfield, an up-and-coming diva, and Koldewyn, her piano man, have played the Plush Room twice before, but now they're settling in for a long six-week run that will surely beat away those Monday Blues. Koldewyn and Goldfield have chosen material ranging from saucy Noel Coward to Irving Berlin to Dorothy Parker. Throw in some comedy numbers ("The Drama Diva From Hell Medley") and some growling blues ("Dr. Long John") and you've got a cathartic experience more satisfying than anything Amanda, Jake, Billy or Allison could possibly cook up. Koldewyn is best known as a member of the singing group The Jesters, though some may remember him from his days with the Cockettes and the Distractions. Goldfield appeared last in *The Texas Chainsaw Manicurist* and racked up an armload of awards for producing and starring in *Closer Than Ever*. For info about Goldfield and Koldewyn call 885-2800. ▼



—Tara Bastille

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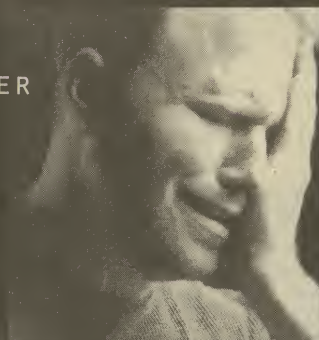
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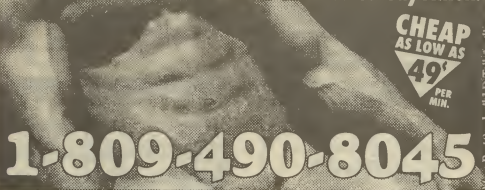
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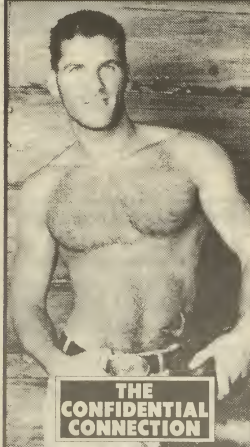
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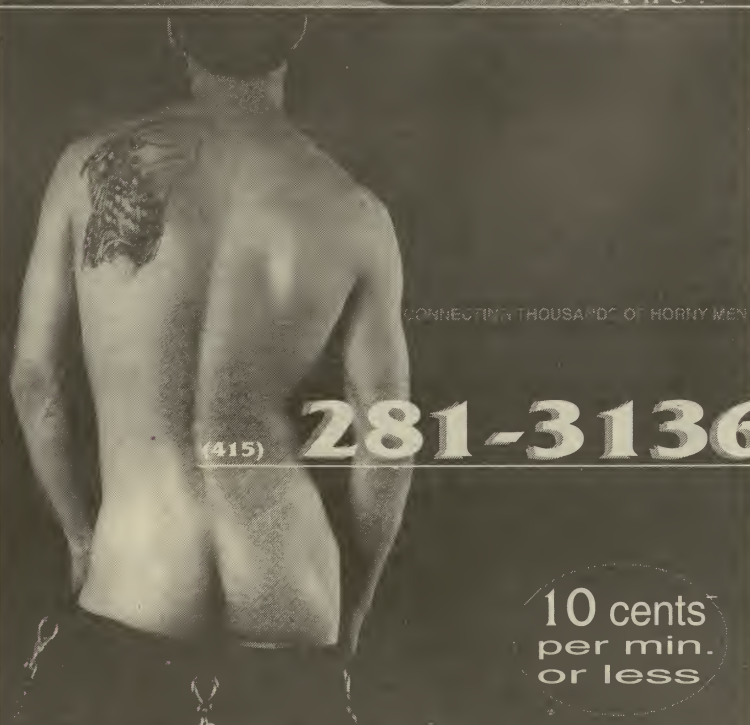


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Your muscles are the
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There is a
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\$30-\$60
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Older & Large Men Welcome
Any Race * 773-9130 * Kory

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\$40 Massage! 441-1054 Hot! E11

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Full body nude, sensual,
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Hrs. Tell me how you want it!
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**Quality
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Friendly,
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Nurturing,
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Enjoy Yourself More!

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Let your body escape everyday
reality to a realm of sensual
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Your body deserves it!!!
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soothing
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Rim/suck for athl. dom. man by
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W/M luvs 2 get facial cum baths!
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Great Full Body Massage

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Deep, Gentle
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Essential Oils,
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Certified Acupressure,
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Enjoy the nurturing magic of a soothing deep
Swedish-Esalen massage in a warm and
comfortable environment. Certified.
Castro location. Gift Certificates Available.
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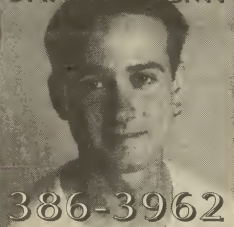
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Deep, Nourishing Massage by
22 y/o Euro-Polynesian
**AUSTRALIAN
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\$40 * Mark * 385-1023 * In/Out E11

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Swedish DeepTissue Erotic
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Avail. Evenings & Weekends
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Massage, Italian, 10AM-9PM
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\$30 Complete 1 Hr. Serious pleasure
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Tan "Young" Built "Gr. Eyes
Exp. Masseuse/Comfy Table

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SWEDISH MASSAGE.**
\$50 for 75 minutes. \$1 mile if
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Deep-tissue, Swdsh full-body erot
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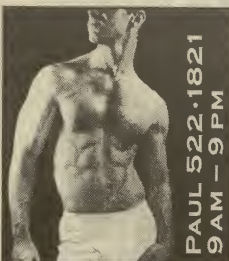
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Wholesomely Handsome, 33
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1 1/4 hr. super massage
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9AM - 9PM

Blonde Canadian

A Touch of Class
Turn Your Fantasy into Reality!
Dynamite Massage for a Man
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This is Good Bye!

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\$35/Hr. Non-Sexual
5 years experience
Talented CMT
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Castro Studio
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by a handsome, masculine blond,
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muscular body, summer tan.
Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage
Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat it
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Offers Relaxing
Total Body Massage
The Way You Want It!
Convenient Location
In/Out. \$50

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Are you feeling **overworked** and **underappreciated**?
Are your neck and shoulder muscles **tight**, your back
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It's time to treat yourself to a deep and relaxing
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Experienced. Certified.
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Big Man, Big Hands, Big
Deep Tissue, Therapeutic, Erotic
Near Castro \$45/60 \$55/90
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TOP QUALITY FULL BODY MASSAGE
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Full-Body Deep Tissue
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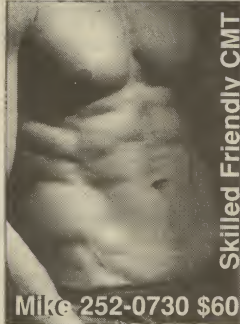
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Joseph Kramer, Founder of the
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Full Body
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before 10 pm



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Nurturing, Sensual
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STRONG HANDS SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED
From Stress Reduction to
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Strong One Hour - \$35
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Sensual, Erotic
Nude Massage
by 27 y/o Handsome
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San Jose
Therapeutic Massage
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Handsome Jock Massage
5'9", 170 Lbs, Tan, 43" Chest
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Full body energy massage
9:00AM-9:00 pm, \$35 Hr.
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Be stimulated by the
RAGIN' CAJUN
Hair, Cajun/Italian ex-football
jock offers one-hour pro/erotic
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Fullbody by CMT. \$40/90 Mins.
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Professional, attractive Italian
masseur has the strength, sensi-
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19 yr old Scandinavian Brat Boy,
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Safe & discreet in calls
(510) 597-1608. Call Jack **E11**

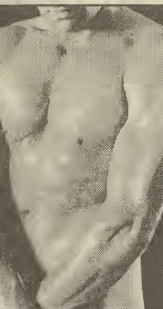
THAI TIM



I rub you the right way!
26yo, 5'7" 128# \$50 in \$60 Out
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Full Body Massage
Experienced, Certified
\$40/hr in, out extra
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Strong Deep Tissue Massage
Call Robert • 567-6015

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Smooth, exotic, Black Boy
does deep, sensual massage.
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Nude, Muscular, Handsome
28 Y/O Expert CMT
Does sensual, erotic and
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on a table. * Jeff * 553-8804 **E13**

CMT Sensational Massage
THOR = MORE
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50+ who seek excellence from
handsome, athletic, competent
youngster, 26. New in USA \$50
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Massage
Sensual-Sacred-
Supportive
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Discount PWAs
Castro Location
Jack Walder CMT

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Attractive 27 Gives
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5'5" 135 Lbs Nice Chest and
Arms, Nice Body. Older Men
Welcome * \$40 Donald 351-2034 **E13**

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CMT. From strong to sensual
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24 y.o., Super Handsome,
Dreamboy Latino
with Gymnast Build,
5'5", 145 lbs.
of Rock Hard Muscle!
Certified in Switzerland
Treat yourself to
International Pampering!
You deserve the best!
\$40/60 Paco 487-9575

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Therapeutic & Erotic
Deep, Satisfying Massage
Certified & Discreet
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in life and my full-body erotic
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I am a very defined, handsome,
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Deep Sensitive Massage
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Lean, Defined, Nude & 24

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STRONG & MAGICAL MASSAGE & HOT TUB
Special Limited Time Offer
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Larry * 608-1804 **E13**

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Erotic, nurturing Man to Man mas-
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buddy * 863-2094 **E11**

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Soothing, Sensual, Soulful BODYWORK
in Noe Valley
\$40/Hr. \$50/1 1/2 Hrs
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Relax & Unwind
experienced, strong & friendly masseur works in pleasant, roomy house near Muni, easy parking, quiet neighborhood
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Sensual Nude Massage
By Tall Well Built Bear
"Come Cuddle With Me"
\$50/90min
Gift Certificates
BRENT
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Deep Tissue
Esalan
Castro
\$50/in

TOM
ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular and hung
Blond man, 34, 6', 210 lbs.
Very friendly guys
over 30 preferred
Sensual massage in the buff
\$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.
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PHYSICAL ATTRACTION
V-handsome Scandinavian Man,
weight lifter, friendly,
blond/blue, 6', 200 lb.
Especially like small
Asian & Latin men.
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STRONG HANDS WARM HEART
Combining effective techniques artfully
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(Mon-Fri 10pm)
STEPHEN F. PULLIS L.M.T.
12 yrs. exp. ex. Castro location or outcall certificates

Out to Relax?
Want someone professional and friendly?
I give a full body massage in the nude.
I am a Norwegian man, 35, Lt. bodybuilder & swimmer, handsome & clean-cut. Certified.
\$45 in. 24 hrs.
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2 Man Massage
A Warm Table, Two Great Looking Men, Four Powerful Hands and You!
A Two-Man Massage Team w/Real Looks—Real Muscle!
SF's Most Creative Duo is Equipped and Ready!
Call Muscle Endowment
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CMT
50 IN 70 OUT
Devin 203-1581

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VOTED BEST OF DENVER
My massage is truly the best. Strong hands. CMT. Relieve Stress & Pain
Intro Offer \$30/in M-F 9-8
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San Bruno
Near SFO

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RELAXING • SENSUAL • HEALING
A Superb Massage by a Strong, Sensitive, Nurturing, CMT. Non-sexual, In/out.
Jason Serinus
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CMT
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Two Hour VACATION
Heated room & table
Unscented almond oil
Soothing music
30 min. consultation & review
90 min. therapeutic touch
Wyman 8 yrs. experience
\$55 415/585-3146

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Nude, Erotic & Swedish Massages
No Nonsense Affair
A Professional Man
For Your Body and Head
By A Handsome Man
6'1", 210 lbs., Blond/Blu
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24 HRS.
1st Timers Welcome

Massage & Baths by Blond
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Strong, secure, energizing body-work by handsome, adept CMT.
75 mins., \$45/\$55 In/Out
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Exhilarating, Tantalizing
massage by strong, handsome, Asian man S.F., East Bay, and Marin. Out Only
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DEEP
Swedish Massage
Private Studio 15th/Dolores
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MAN MAN
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BOB

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6+Yrs Exp. CMT. Great Hands
In/Out. Tom, (415) 345-7318

Feel Great!
Relax with an expert Swedish Easlen Massage
John, C.M.T.
386-0152, \$35/hr., \$45/1-1/2 hour
Body Electric Graduate since 1986

New In Town
Providing outstanding massage for over 9 years. In/Outcalls 8am-10pm will battle
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Swedish Massage
Private Studio 15th/Dolores
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Excellent Deep Tissue Massage and Touch by gifted and attractive masseur
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Enjoy a long & luxurious Swedish massage with a strong, experienced professional. A wonderful environment awaits you -- warm, clean, and comfortable. Certified.
TOM LOMBARDO
553-4073 New Castro Location

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Looking for a hairy Muscle Man to rub your body?
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No B.S. No ripoff Honest!
\$30 THAT'S ALL
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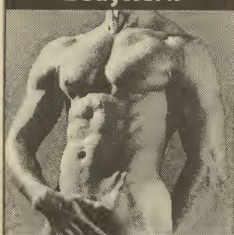
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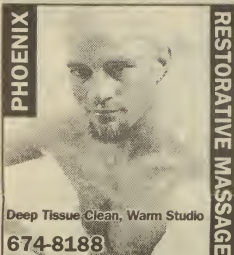
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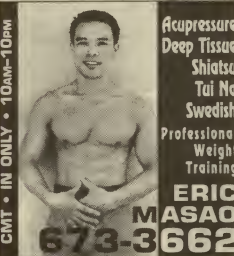
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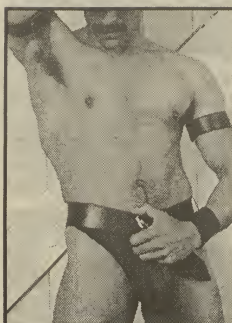


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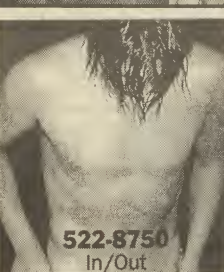
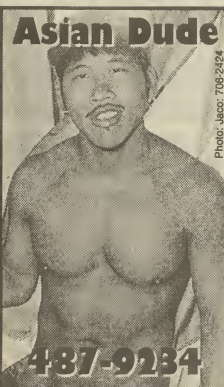
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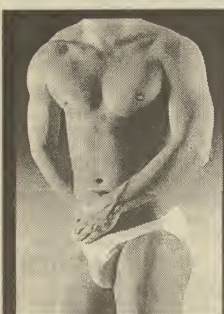
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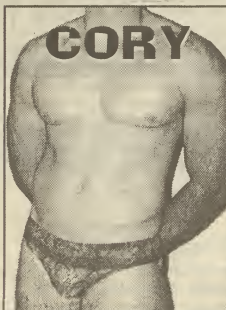
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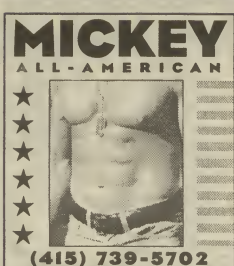


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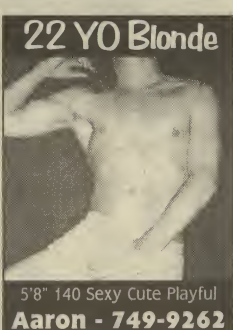
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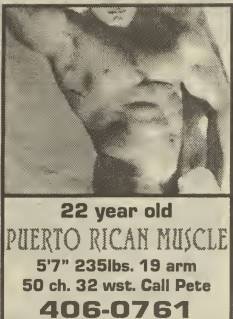


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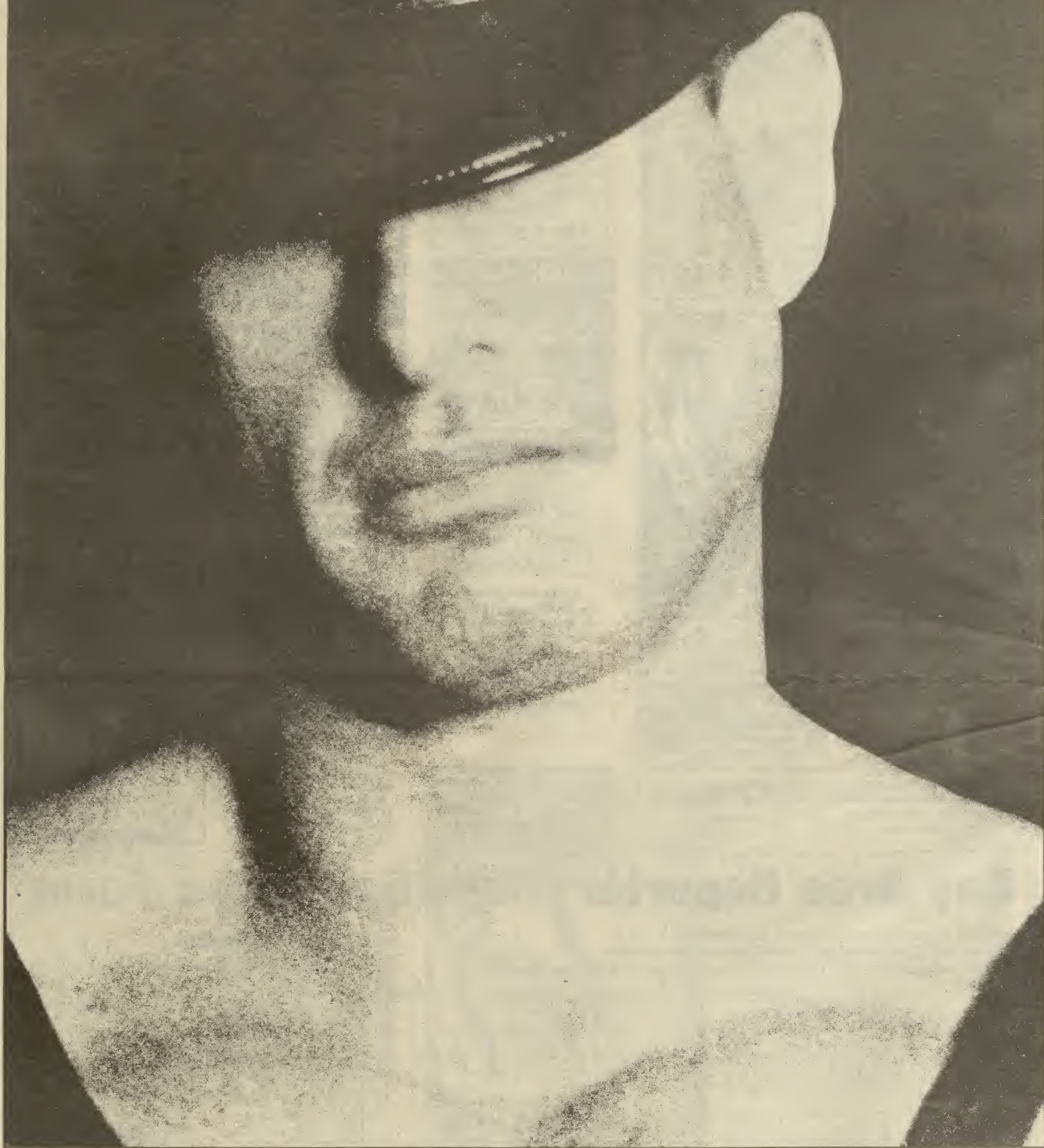


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